

**OPINION 8**  
BEIJING NOT REALLY  
THE BIGGER FISH**WORLD 11**  
US, ISRAEL EXPLORING  
'PLAN B' FOR IRAN**SPORT 14**  
INDIAN TEAM'S NEW JERSEY  
SHOWCASED AT BURJ KHALIFA

LUCKNOW, FRIDAY OCTOBER 15, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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The offices of *The Pioneer* will remain closed on October 15. The next Edition will be available to its readers on October 17.

## CAPSULE

### BITCOIN COULD CAUSE NEXT FINANCIAL CRASH

**New Delhi:** Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies could cause next financial crash, according to a top Bank of England official, *Daily Mail* reported.

### CBSE OK'S OFFLINE X-XII TERM-1 EXAMS

**New Delhi:** The first-term exams for Classes X and XII will be conducted offline in November-December and the date-sheet for the same will be announced on October 18, the Central Board of Secondary Education said on Thursday.

### INFERNO IN KAOHSIUNG CITY KILLS AT LEAST 46

**Taipei:** A building fire that raged out of control for hours overnight in Kaohsiung city in southern Taiwan left 46 people dead and at least 41 others injured. Flames and smoke billowed from the lower floors of the building as firefighters tried to douse the blaze.

# More teeth for BSF turn into ache for Congress

Rift widens in Punjab unit, Capt accused of aiding BJP's 'plans'

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

The extension of the Border Security Force's (BSF) jurisdiction in States sharing the International Borders (IB) has resulted in turning the intense infighting within the Punjab Congress, uglier. So much so that, on Thursday, one of the State Cabinet Ministers directly accused party stalwart and former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh of being behind the BJP-led Centre's latest move.

"Earlier, when he went to Delhi and met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, paddy procurement was delayed by 10 days and now when he has gone to Delhi again, the BSF's jurisdiction has been increased. What is Captain sahib trying to prove? I always said he is with the BJP," former Olympian and Cabinet Minister in the Charanjit Singh Channi dispensation, Pargat Singh, a known Navjot Singh Sidhu loyalist, told media persons.



Pargat said the development reeks of a design to implement Governor's Rule in Punjab by branding it as a disturbed State. *Continued on Page 11*

## Sulking Sidhu falls in line

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A truce seems to have been struck as a sulking Punjab Congress president Navjot Sidhu on Thursday met the party central leadership and emerged to say that he had expressed his "concerns regarding Punjab and Punjab Congress to the party high-command. I have full faith in Congress president, Priyanka

and Rahul. Whatever decision they'll take, it'll be for the betterment of Congress and Punjab," he said. Sidhu had tendered his resignation over differences over some inductions in the Channi Cabinet. "Sidhu will work as Punjab Congress president and set up an organisational structure. An announcement will be made on Friday," Congress' Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat said.

## Bid to standardise BSF's role in States along IB

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre's decision to expand the operational jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) from 15 km to 50 km in Assam, Punjab and West Bengal, and reduce it from 80 km to 50 km in Gujarat is aimed at standardising the Central paramilitary's role in the States with International Borders (IB) as also to break the

nexus of the local police with the smuggling syndicates patronised by the local politicians.

Officials said the move is also expected to lead to fair investigation in smuggling cases, including through drones which have been reported to be dropping arms and narcotics 30-35 km inside the areas from the international boundary. In addition to these, illegal immigration from the bordering

countries and their nexus with the terror groups is also a major concern for the Centre.

With the latest decision, a BSF officer of the rank corresponding to that of the lowest rank is now empowered under the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), to exercise and discharge powers and duties without an order from a Magistrate and without a warrant. *Continued on Page 11*

# Goons attack temples in B'desh during Puja

**Paramilitary deployed in 22 districts as 4 killed in riots**

PTI ■ DHAKA

Some Hindu temples in Bangladesh were vandalised by unidentified people during Durga Puja celebrations, prompting the Government to deploy paramilitary forces in 22 districts after four people were killed and many others injured in riots, media reports said on Thursday. A Home Ministry spokesperson said that the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) troops have been deployed in 22 districts across the country to stop the spread of violence.

The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and the armed police were also ordered to be on guard with the BGB in 22 of the 64 administrative districts and elsewhere to contain any violence, he said.

Three people were killed during clashes between a mob and the police at Hajiganj sub-district in Chandpur, bordering Cumilla while the fourth succumbed to his wounds later. Authorities enforced a ban on rallies in Hajiganj where offi-



cials confirmed the deaths of four people by gunshots, adding that two others were critically injured in the clashes. The police said that a couple of their

officials were injured as the mob attacked them and vandalised their and local administrators' cars. *Continued on Page 11*

## In close touch with Dhaka: MEA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) noted on Thursday that the Indian Mission is in close contact with the Bangladeshi authorities over the reported attacks on Durga Puja pandals and temples. MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi told the media, "We note that the

Government of Bangladesh has reacted promptly to ensure control of the situation, including the deployment of law enforcement machinery. We also understand that the celebrations of Durga Puja continue with the support of Bangladesh Government agencies and majority of the public." *Continued on Page 11*

## Varun tweets Atal's pro-farmer speech

**Wise words from big-hearted leader, writes defiant BJP MP**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing with his open defiance of the BJP's official line on the farmers' protest, the party's Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha Varun Gandhi on Thursday sought to send out a "message" to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by posting on social media a 41-year-old speech of the late party patriarch Atal Bihari Vajpayee staunchly backing the farmers' demands and saying "oppression of farmers will not be tolerated".

Varun tweeted a video of the speech of Vajpayee with an accompanying text "wise words from a big-hearted leader".

In an apparent message to the top BJP leadership, the BJP MP posted the short and sharp clip of former Prime



Minister who seeks to warn the Government against intimidating and repressing farmers. "Daman ke tarike chod dijiye, darane ki koshish mat kijiye...kisan darne wala nahi.", Vajpayee is heard saying in his speech in Hindi as an Opposition leader in 1980.

"I want to warn the Government against intimidating these farmers. Don't try to scare us. These farmers are not going to be scared. We don't want to use the farmers' movements for politics, we support their genuine demands and if the Government will try to scare us, or misuse the laws, or disregard the peaceful movement of farmers, then we will also become a part of this

*Continued on Page 11*

## India to shout success of jab drive from rooftops

**100-cr mark likely by Oct 19; doses sent to neighbours**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India inches closer to the ambitious 100-crore Covid-19 vaccination mark, the Government has lined up a series of events, including announcements from ports, railway stations, bus stations, metro stations and airports to mark the massive success of the nationwide inoculation drive that was initiated on January 16.

In the meantime, after a pause of almost six months, India-made coronavirus vaccines have been sent to Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Iran according to the Government's decision to resume their supplies, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

MEA spokesperson



People at Dadar market on the eve of Dussehra festival, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic in Mumbai on Thursday

PTI

Arindam Bagchi said the Government has decided to send the supplies to countries in the neighbourhood initially.

Confident that there is enough stock of vaccines for domestic purposes, the Union Health Ministry expects India to reach the 100-crore milestone by October 19 or 20. Prime Minister Narendra Modi may also address the nation to thank healthcare workers for their immense contribution to India's vaccine drive.

To celebrate the milestone,

the BJP has asked its Ministers, MPs, MLAs, and party functionaries to attend events across the country.

The focus of the mega outreach plan would be States that will go to polls next year, including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Punjab. The mega celebration will involve front-line workers, healthcare staff and Covid warriors, who died of the infection while playing a pivotal role in achieving the target of 100 crore doses. *Continued on Page 11*



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Kanya puja on the occasion of Mahanavami at the Gorakhnath Temple in Gorakhpur on Thursday

## SIT takes Min's son to recreate sequence of events in Lakhimpur

**Ashish, 3 others arrested in case taken to scene of killings**

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Lakhimpur Kheri violence in which nine people, including four farmers, were killed on October 3, recreated the sequence of events on Thursday with the help of four people arrested in the case, including the Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, and his friend Ankit Das.



SIT recreates the sequence of events leading to the incident in UP's Tikonia village as part of their ongoing probe into the Lakhimpur Kheri killings on Thursday PTI

The investigators took Ashish, his friend Das, bodyguard Latif and driver Shekhar Bharti to the site of the incident on the Tikonia-Banbirpur road

under tight security and the entire area was cordoned off. During the exercise, a team of the Forensic Science Laboratory, Lucknow, was also

present along with the SIT. Personnel of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) were also deployed along with the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) jawans. The accused were questioned about their presence on the spot even though they knew that the farmers were protesting there. The SIT arranged for three SUVs and also mannequins to recreate how the speeding vehicles mowed down farmers on that fateful day.

*Continued on Page 11*

## PIA suspends flights to Af after threat from Taliban

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's national flag carrier on Thursday suspended flight operations to Afghanistan due to what it termed "security concerns", hours after the Taliban Government threatened to ban the airline unless it reduced the fare on the Kabul-Islamabad route to previous levels.

A spokesperson for the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) confirmed the development, saying Kabul operations of the airline will remain suspended until further notice.

There are currently two airline carriers — PIA and Afghanistan's Kam Air — which operate chartered flights to Kabul with high fares. *Continued on Page 11*

## Order on Aryan's bail plea on Oct 20

**Consuming drugs for last few years, NCB tells court**

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Special Court under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act) on Thursday reserved its order on a bail application filed by Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's eldest son Aryan Khan in the mid-sea drug bust case for October 20, after the prosecution opposed the plea alleging that the prime accused was a regular consumer of drugs for the past few years and that he was part of the conspiracy.

Opposing Aryan's bail application, Additional



Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh told the special court that the prime accused had admitted that the seized drug was meant for his and friend's consumption and that the latter could not escape liability on the ground that no recovery was made from him. *Continued on Page 11*

## India gets re-elected to UNHRC

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India was re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council for the 2022-24 term on Thursday and vowed to continue to work for the promotion and protection of Human Rights through "Samman, Samvad and Sahyog".

"India gets re-elected to the @UN\_HRC (2022-24) for a 6th term with overwhelming majority. Heartfelt gratitude to the @UN membership for reposing its faith in India."

"We will continue to work for promotion and protection of Human Rights through #Samman #Samvad #Sahyog #Samman #Samvad #Sahyog, India's Permanent Mission to the UN tweeted. *Continued on Page 11*



# Yogi: Govt committed to empower women

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the Central and state governments were committed to women empowerment and the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign was being run across the country and it had brought about a positive change in the thinking of society towards daughters.

“Every section of the society is making its daughters strong and capable. Now every daughter will survive and all the daughters will study, so that she will be seen herself monitoring the path of respect and self-reliance in the society. The consciousness of society will help them in taking forward the daughters. Many programmes being run for the safety of daughters, including Mother Vandana, are giving us a new direction. The Mission Shakti programme run by the state government is a campaign related to protection, respect and self-reliance of mother power,” the chief minister said while addressing media representatives in Gorakhpur soon after performing ‘Kanya Pujan’ on Thursday.

Yogi said that the festival of Navratri was the most powerful means of showing respect for ‘Maa’ (mother) in the Sanatan tradition of India and this holy feeling should come within every person. “We have to add this tradition in our sanskars. If we take the form of the Goddess, whom we worship in general, in a practical



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath performing ‘Kanya Pujan’ at Gorakhpur on Thursday

way, then along with mother power, there will be an increase in security, respect and self-reliance of sisters, daughters. Every citizen has to change his attitude towards the girl child and women as she is strong and can lead

in every field and can also properly guide the society. Along with safety of the girl child, the campaign will have to be carried forward for education, health and their self-reliance and respect,” he said.

“The importance of worshipping Goddess, the presiding deity of Shakti, shows that Adi Shakti is the basis of the power of this world. Since time immemorial, the Sanatan tradition of India has been organising Basantik

Navratri and Shardiya Navratri two times in a year as a form of worship and rituals for the Goddess of power. Every Indian feels proud of the legacy of thousands of years. Mother power has an invaluable contribution in the upgradation of our civilization, culture and rites. It is the good fortune of all of us that in the Mahanavami of Shardiya Navratri, we get a holy opportunity to worship Goddess Swaroopa Kumari girls,” he explained.

The chief minister further said, “The state government has initiated many steps for empowering women. Education of girls up to graduation has been made free in the state. Through Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana, the government is providing financial assistance of Rs 15,000 in six installments from the girl’s birth to her graduation. So far 10 lakh girls have benefited from this scheme. Similarly, the state government has successfully organised marriages of more than 1.75 lakh poor girls through the Mukhyamantri Samaj Vivah Yojana.”

Extending his warm greetings and best wishes to the people of the state, the chief minister said that Navratri was a symbol of victory of religion and truth over unrighteousness. “This festival gives inspiration to all of us to move forward on the path of truth and religion. The path of dharma inspires and encourages us to move forward towards our duties,” he said and added that where there was truth and justice, there would definitely be victory.

## SP aim to dislodge BJP govt; will win 400 seats: AKY



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav reiterated his claim that his party could win 400 seats in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections and said that the SP’s aim was to dislodge the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party government in the state.

“Deep sense of frustration and disappointment against the BJP government prevails among all sections of society and it seems that people of Uttar Pradesh can make our party win 400 seats in the upcoming 2022 polls. Our party’s aim is to dislodge the BJP government,” Yadav said on his way to Lucknow after the

first phase of his Yatra in Kanpur and Hamirpur.

Attacking Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the SP chief said, “Fake Baba will be removed soon.”

Akhilesh sharpened the attack against BJP-led government, alleging it had cheated the public.

“The BJP workers crushed and killed the farmers with their vehicles. This government is anti-farmer, manure-stealer, and is behind the rise of prices of pesticides. Under this government, inflation has skyrocketed, unemployment has peaked, corruption has increased, crime has increased, law and order has collapsed,” he alleged and slammed the Yogi

government after UP Law Minister Brajesh Pathak paid a visit to families of deceased BJP workers in Lakhimpur violence but skipped meeting the kin of the four deceased farmers.

“The BJP Union minister and his son are accused in the Lakhimpur incident, then how can you expect that they will visit the families of the deceased farmers? The BJP has mowed down farmers and are preparing to trample down the laws, how can you expect sympathy for farmers from them? The BJP had promised farmers to double their income but instead the inflation has doubled. The BJP government in the state has been continu-

## BJP leader takes a jibe at Akhilesh’s tweet

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav invited the ire of the Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday over his tweet wishing people on the occasion of Ram Navami on a day the nation celebrated Maha Navami.

The BJP described Akhilesh Yadav as “naya naya Hindu”.

In the tweet, Yadav extended his greetings to people on Ram Navami, which falls in the moth of Chaitra or March-April .

Prominent among those who were quick to respond was Amit Malviya of the BJP, who pointed out that Ram Navami was celebrated in the month of Chaitra in the Hindu calendar, which falls in March-April, and during this period, people celebrate Maha Navami, which was a day of

worshipping Goddess Durga.

“This is what happens when those who open fire on kar sevaks put up the drama of being Hindus with elections approaching,” he said in a tweet in Hindi.

The official twitter handle of the Uttar Pradesh BJP posted two pictures side by side - one of Akhilesh Yadav and another of chief minister Yogi Adityanath performing kanya pujan and said “the difference is clear - naya naya Hindu (new Hindu) and sanatani Hindu.”

“Akhileshji, who does not know the difference between Ram Navami and Maha Navami, talks about Ram and Parashuram. Do not fool the people (mat pehnayo topi) it looks better on you,” the tweet said.

The SP workers often wear red caps. The SP had announced that a 108-foot-tall

**“THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THOSE WHO OPEN FIRE ON KAR SEVAKS PUT UP THE DRAMA OF BEING HINDUS WITH ELECTIONS APPROACHING”**

statue of Lord Parashuram will be installed in Lucknow.

The BJP has claimed that the SP president has withdrawn his tweet and his twitter handle now conveys his wishes to people on Maha Navami. The BJP leaders also retweeted a similar tweet by senior Congress leader Anand Sharma, who wished people on Ram Navami.

On the issue of last-minute alliance with the Congress, the SP chief said: “The prior experience of Samajwadi Party forging alliance with big parties and all those parties with whom the party had forged alliance in the past, has not been very pleasant. Samajwadi Party is trying to bring regional and small political outfits together for the 2022 UP polls.”

## Min announces Rs 50L, job to kin of martyred Army man

**Lucknow (PNS):** Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna announced Rs 50 lakh as financial assistance and a government job for a family member of Indian Army Sepoy Saraj Singh, who was martyred during a gunfight in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

One Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and four jawans of the Indian Army lost their lives during the counter-terror operation at Poonch.

The last rites of Singh were performed at his native village in Shahjahanpur on Thursday. A native of Banda in Uttar Pradesh, Singh is survived by two brothers, his wife and his mother and was among three brothers. “We have provided Rs 50 lakh as financial assistance to the family. A road will be named after him and a government job will be given to a family member,” Khanna announced on Thursday.

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**Train No. 05315/05316 Chhapra-Delhi-Chhapra Weekly Puja Special Train**  
**Days of Run:** • Train No. 05315 Ex. Chhapra, Every Tuesday, (From 26-10-2021 to 30-11-2021 = 6 Trips  
• Train No. 05316 Ex. Delhi, Every Wednesday, (From 27-10-2021 to 01-12-2021 = 6 Trips

05315 Chhapra-Delhi		Station	05316 Delhi-Chhapra	
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.
--	11:15	<b>Chhapra</b>	13:20	--
12:23	12:28	Ballia	11:53	11:58
13:13	13:15	Yusufpur	10:48	10:50
13:36	13:41	Gazipur City	10:28	10:33
14:35	14:40	Aunrihar Jn.	09:35	09:37
15:13	15:15	Dobhi	09:06	09:08
15:23	15:25	Kerakat	08:57	08:59
16:15	16:40	Jaunpur Jn.	08:05	08:30
17:10	17:15	Shahganj Jn.	07:05	07:10
17:54	17:56	Akbarpur Jn.	06:13	06:15
19:05	19:10	Faizabad Jn.	04:35	04:40
22:30	22:40	Lucknow Jn (NR)	01:10	01:20
00:58	01:00	Hardoi	23:32	23:54
02:53	02:55	Shahjahanpur	22:40	22:42
05:05	05:07	Aonla	19:55	19:57
06:05	06:10	Chandausi Jn.	18:52	19:00
07:55	08:03	Moradabad Jn.	17:22	17:30
08:35	08:37	Amroha	16:30	16:32
09:36	09:38	Hapur Jn.	15:30	15:32
10:27	10:29	Ghaziabad Jn.	14:52	14:54
10:51	10:53	Delhi Sahdara	14:14	14:16
11:20	--	<b>Delhi Jn.</b>	--	14:00

**Rake Composition:-** SLRD-02, General Second Class-09, Sleeper-09, AC Third Class-02, AC Second Class-01= Total 12 Coaches.  
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**अल्पकालिक निविदा सूचना**  
राजकीय मुद्रणालय एवं व्यापार कर विभाग से पंजीकृत आफसेट मुद्रकों से अकादमी की मासिक पत्रिका बगीचा के मुद्रण हेतु मुहर बन्द निविदायें दिनांक **25.10.2021 अपरान्ह 02:00 बजे** तक आमंत्रित है। निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय के अन्दर प्राप्त निविदायें उसी दिन **शाम 04:00 बजे** अद्योहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा खोली जायेगी। इस अवसर पर निविदा देने वाली फार्मों के प्रतिनिधि यदि चाहें तो उपस्थित रह सकते हैं।  
**अनिवार्य शर्तें :-**  
1. निविदायें मोहरबन्द लिफाफे में सचिव, उग्रप्र उर्दू अकादमी, विभूति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ को समर्पित होंगी।  
2. निविदादाता फर्म को उपरोक्त कार्य का कम से कम पाँच वर्षों का अनुभव अनिवार्य है।  
3. निविदादाता द्वारा आयकर अदेयता प्रमाण—पत्र प्रस्तुत करना होगा।  
4. (a) राजकीय मुद्रणालय एवं व्यापार द्वारा जारी पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र की छायाप्रति संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है।  
(b) प्रेस का जी.एस.टी. नम्बर एवं पैन का कॉड संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है।  
5. पत्रिका का साइज 20x30/8 का होगा।  
6. पत्रिका के टेक्स्ट का मुद्रण सीटीपी प्लेट द्वारा 80 जी.एस.एम. मैपलिथो सफेद पेपर का प्रयोग किया जायेगा।  
7. टेक्स्ट हेतु 80 जी.एस.एम. मैपलिथो सफेद कागज तथा कवर हेतु 150 जी.एस.एम. आर्ट कार्ड का स्वयं फर्म द्वारा प्रयोग किया जायेगा।  
8. पत्रिका की जुजबन्दी (सिलाई) के बाद पेपर बैक बाइन्डिंग परफेक्ट पद्धति द्वारा की जायेगी।  
9. टेण्डर के साथ उपरोक्तानुसार प्रयोग होने वाले कागज एवं आर्ट कार्ड के नमूने तथा उग्रप्र उर्दू अकादमी के नाम रु० 5,000/- (पाँच हजार रुपये) का बैंक ड्राफ्ट/बैंकर्स चेक जमानत के रूप में संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है।  
10. पत्रिका के मूल (मैटर) की कम्पोजिंग एवं कवर डिजाइन अकादमी उपलब्ध करायेंगी।  
11. कवर पर लेमिनेशन एवं क्रीजिंग करना आवश्यक होगा।  
12. पत्रिका के मुद्रण के रेट 1000 एवं 500 प्रतियाँ हेतु पृथक—पृथक कोट करने होंगे।  
13. फर्म को अकादमी द्वारा प्रेषित मुद्रण आदेश की तिथि से 15 दिन के अन्दर अन्दर पत्रिकायें अकादमी कार्यालय पहुँचाना होगी जिसके लिये किसी प्रकार का माझा नहीं दिया जायेगा।  
14. निविदा स्वीकार किये जाने के उपरान्त निविदाकर्ता को स्वीकृत तिथि से तीन दिन के अन्दर रु० 100/- के स्टाम्प पेपर पर सचिव, उग्रप्र उर्दू अकादमी के साथ एक अनुबन्ध करना होगा।  
15. टेण्डर द्वारा स्वीकृत दरें अनुबन्ध की तिथि से एक वर्ष तक प्रभावी रहेंगी। इस अवधि में फर्म को स्वीकृत दरों के अनुसार कार्य करना अनिवार्य होगा।  
16. अपूर्ण टेण्डर पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। टेण्डर के लिफाफे पर पत्रिका के मुद्रण एवं सिलार्ड हेतु टेण्डर अवश्य लिखा जाये।  
17. उपरोक्त शर्तों का फर्म द्वारा यथावत् अनुपालन न करने पर भुगतान किया जाना सम्भव नहीं होगा।  
18. अद्योहस्ताक्षरी को बिना कारण बतायें कोई एक या सभी टेण्डरों को निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार होगा।  
19. अधिक जानकारी के लिए किसी भी कार्य दिवस में **11:00 बजे से 04:00 बजे तक** कार्यालय से सम्पर्क स्थापित किया जा सकता है।

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority or of binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.



# 54 per cent districts of UP Covid-free

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Covid control mechanism in Uttar Pradesh got a shot in the arm with 41 districts becoming free of the deadly viral infection with active and new cases coming down to zero.

The drop in fresh and active cases in Amroha, Ayodhya, Budaun, Baghat, Ballia, Basti, Bahraich, Bhadohi, Bijnor, Chandauli, Chitrakoot, Deoria, Etah, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Fatehpur, Ghazipur, Gonda, Hamirpur, Hapur, Hardoi, Hathras, Jaunpur, Kanpur Dehat, Kasganj, Kushinagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Lalitpur, Mahoba, Mainpuri, Mau, Mirzapur, Rampur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Shamli, Shravasti, Siddharthnagar, Sitapur, Sonbhadra, Sultanpur and Unnao, indicated complete elimination of coronavirus from over 54 per cent districts of UP.

In what comes as another relief, none of the 75 districts of the state reported fresh cases of coronavirus infection in double digits lately. Indicating signs that the dangerous virus was indeed receding from the state, as many as 67 districts reported no COVID-19 case in the last 24 hours.

The active Covid caseload in the most populous state that was at a high of 3.10 lakh cases in April has been reduced to 135 now, whereas states like Kerala and Maharashtra account for a heavy active caseload of 97,694 and nearly 30,000, respectively.

The infection transmission level in the state has been brought down by restricting fresh cases below 50 for over two consecutive months.

Out of over 1.71 lakh samples tested in the last 24 hours, 14 tested positive for coronavirus infection while in the corresponding period, another 15 COVID-19 patients recovered from the infection, taking the tally of recovered patients to 16.86 lakh.

Due to proactive measures such as the aggressive ‘Trace, Test & Treat’ and prevention through vaccination and partial Covid curfew to eradicate the pandemic, the positivity rate has slumped to lower than 0.01 per cent.

Scaling up stringent testing mechanism, the state has man-

## Covid vaccinations drop to 3 lakh/day in festive period

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Covid vaccinations have taken a plunge in the festive period, coming down to three lakh per day in Uttar Pradesh.

Giving this information, a senior official from the Health department said that people were not getting themselves vaccinated during the festive period. Incidentally, UP has vaccinated as high as 25-30 lakh beneficiaries in one day and has kept similar targets for the month of October.

Admitting that Covid vaccinations had taken a plunge, a senior doctor at the KGMU said that from 900-1,000 vaccinations per day the numbers had come down to 200 vaccinations per day.

“There are very few people coming for vaccination and there could be several factors for this. This is the festive period and people are travelling or moving and they do not want to miss any day because of fever which often follows vaccination. The second reason could be that those who wanted to be vaccinated have been vaccinated while those left out were not wanting to get vaccinated,” he said.

He said that it was unlikely that the figures would improve in the coming days.

Brand ambassador of Covid Vaccination NHM, Dr Surya Kant Tripathi, said that it was true that the vaccination pace had dipped with India recording only 35 lakh vaccinations in one day on October 13, which was not expected as it should be a minimum of 70 lakh per day.

He said that the pace of

aged to break the coronavirus chain with effective protocols in place, and by sticking to the time-tested strategy of case isolation and contact-tracing, combined with an alert community surveillance system.

Over 17 per cent of UP’s population eligible for Covid vaccination has taken both doses of the vaccine so far. The state has administered over

the vaccination would pick up pace only when the vaccinations for 2-18 years group was started.

“The targets will then shift from adults to children because this number is also a very huge number with a figure touching 35 crore in the country out of which 25 crore have to be vaccinated for herd immunity. Experts have been saying that this population is vulnerable because no one has been vaccinated. So to vaccinate these 25 crore people would require one-and-a-half month time which will see the vaccinations picking up again,” he said.

He said that special drives should be carried out for vaccinating those above 18 years by reaching out to the slums and the remote rural areas.

Meanwhile, regarding the vaccination of children below the 18 years category, the officials said that there would be a total of 7.5 crore population in Uttar Pradesh which would be vaccinated in this category which includes one crore of 0-2 years population.

“The guidelines of the Central government will be issued in this regard and no preparations are required as the system is already in place” he said.

The senior official said that there was still time for it as the processes were on.

Meanwhile, People’s Health Organisation president Dr Ishwar Gilada said that figures of vaccination had gone down in the country with people avoiding vaccination while fasting. He said that the supply of vaccine was also low in some of the states.

11.75 crore vaccine doses to become the top state in the country.

In addition, the state has also achieved the landmark of administering the first dose of the Covid vaccine to over 62 per cent of eligible adult population. On the other hand, Maharashtra trails with nine crore vaccine doses delivered so far.

# Visarjan today as city bids adieu to the Goddess

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A total of 109 Durga Puja Samitis will be carrying out the visarjan of Goddess Durga idols on Friday at six ghats which have been created at Jhulelal Park, Kudia Ghat and the Laxman Mela Grounds.

Giving this information, Durga Puja Visarjan Samiti president Rupesh Mondal said that since the past one year with the immersions taking place in the specially prepared ponds filled with Gomti river water, the river Gomti was not facing the threat of pollution at all. He said that four ghats had been constructed at the Jhulelal Park and one each at Laxman Mela Grounds and the Kudia Ghat. “Out of the four ghats which we have got constructed at the Jhulelal Park, one is bigger than the others and will be used for the visarjan of the bigger idols of Goddess Durga while the other three will be used for the immersion of the smaller idols of Devi Jagrans and Jagratas. There is in addition one pond in which the entire puja samagri will be immersed,” he said.

Mondal said that once the idols were immersed in the pond then it took a minimum of three hours for the clay to separate from the wooden framework on which they were made. “We take out the wooden framework and we put it in the puja kund where it disintegrates later,” he said.

He said that for the visarjan of smaller idols of Jagratas and kalash they had made arrangements in smaller ghats so that the bigger ghats could remain relatively free.

Mondal said that during the visarjan, he remained in touch with the Durga Puja Samitis and asked them the choice of the ghats and where they would prefer to carry out the visarjan.

“Similarly, in the Laxman Mela Grounds, arrangements have been made for both the immersion of bigger and the smaller statues. The samitis select the ghats as per the convenience of reaching there but most of the idols were immersed at the Jhulelal Park last year,” he added.

Mondal said that there were three Durga Puja Samitis which would immerse the idols in their own ponds.

“These include Ramakrishna Math samiti which immerses its idol at its own pond at Bakshi Ka Talab, the Sahara Shahar samiti which immerses the idol in a pond



Devotees offering prayers on the last day of Navratri

they have created in their premises and the Bengali Club Puja Samiti which carries out visarjan in the pond it had created in the club premises,” he added. He said that over 70-71 idols were expected to be immersed in the Jhulelal Park ponds this year.

“I have also made a request that no melas should be organised at the visarjan venues. There will be no vendors in these areas just as it was last year with only the Durga puja samiti organisers and people from the administration present at these points. Not only do vendors create crowds with people stopping to have tea but there could be some miscreants

who could create problems at the time of visarjan. Besides, we also have to see that the Covid protocols are maintained during the visarjan with people coming in with the idols, immersing them and then returning,” he said.

Mondal said that they had made an inspection of the ghats after getting the area cleaned by the nagar nigam.

The president of the Durga Puja Visarjan Samiti further said that looking into the fact that at Ganesh Mahotsav visarjan this year when the samiti had come in crowds and in a festive mode, they had given instructions to the Durga Puja Samitis that very few people

should be come for the visarjan. “Last year, only five members of each samiti came for the visarjan which we hope will be followed this year too because unnecessary crowds of people are not going to help. If members of one samiti indulge in shouting and singing then those of other samitis follow them,” he added.

He said to prevent overcrowding at the ghats they would instruct each samiti as to when and where they had to come for the visarjan of the Durga idol. He said that the other members of the visarjan samiti looking after the visarjan were Amiya Goswami and Deepak Bhattacharya.

# Stage all set for Dussehra symbolising the victory of good over evil

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The stage is all set for the festival of Dussehra, which symbolises the victory of good over evil, on Friday.

The Aishbagh Ramleela, which is one of the oldest Ramleelas, will witness the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma as the chief guest along with Cabinet Minister Brajesh Pathak.

Pandit Adityanath Dwivedi, a member from the samiti, said that “dharma parivartan and dharma algavavad” were the social evils which would be burnt along with the effigy of Ravana at the Aishbagh Ramleela Grounds. “The Ramleela Samiti



always chooses a theme for the Dussehra that is normally a burning topic. These social evils have been selected to be burnt with the Ravana because

this is what is happening in all parts of the country and needs to be stopped,” he added.

Dwivedi further said that the Ravana effigy this year

would be only 80 feet tall instead of 121 feet.

“This is because we need three months to prepare the plywood Ravana effigy and we were not sure whether Dussehra would be allowed to be celebrated this year due to the pandemic. Hence we went in for the conventional effigy by the time the guidelines were announced,” he said.

He said that some people in the general public would be allowed to watch the Ramleela for which chairs had been arranged at Ramleela Grounds keeping in mind social distancing. “There will be only one effigy instead of three filled with firecrackers,” he added.

## Lucknow exports UP’s first consignment of bananas to Iran

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The first consignment of bananas from Uttar Pradesh was exported to Iran from Lucknow on Thursday

Considering the potential toward promotion of agri export from Uttar Pradesh, APEDA Ministry of Commerce and Industry Government of India, worked seamlessly and collaborated with the Government of UP along with other stakeholders such as farmers, exporters and importers to export the first and ever shipment of Banana from Lucknow to Iran by sea route via JNPT by APEDA registered exporter M/s Desai Agro Foods on Thursday from Mango Pack House, Malihabad, Lucknow.

The flagging-off ceremony was chaired by UP’s additional chief secretary (agriculture and marketing) in the presence of director and other senior officials of APEDA, director of Desai Agri Foods Pvt. Ltd. and other senior officials. Farmers of Lakhimpur, Bareilly and Lucknow actively participated in the ceremony to be a part of this history.

CISH Director Shailendra Rajan said that the product was directly procured from farmers of Palia Kalan (Lakhimpur), brought to Lucknow and it was packed in Lucknow based Mango Packhouse.

“Two containers of 40 feet with 40 metric tons of bananas were sent on a trial basis to Iranian market. The total area of banana cultivation is 1500+ acres in Palia Kalan area of district Lakhimpur. This will be the first time when international markets will taste the sweetness of bananas grown in Uttar Pradesh. The overall production of banana in UP is 3078.73 thousand MT. The concentrated pockets of Uttar Pradesh are Lakhimpur, Maharajganj, Kushinagar, Allahabad, Kaushambi having the extreme potential to grow exportable bananas for international market,” he said.

ACS (agriculture and marketing) appreciated the efforts of APEDA made in Uttar Pradesh toward making it an agri export hub. He also requested to organise training and sensitisation programmes for farmers and highlighted the agri export policy framed by the UP government and asked the farmers and traders to get benefitted by it.

Farmers from Lakhimpur said, “We have been cultivating bananas since 15 years but this is the first time when our bananas were being exported. Really thanks to APEDA for seamless coordination and support.”

Looking at the statistics, the total Indian export is around 135.2 thousand MT valuing Rs 415.06 crore of banana to Iran, Gulf Nations, European Nations etc which may be expanded to 165 thousand MT valuing by end 2022. New markets of USA, Belgium, Russia, Germany, Japan etc, may be explored for lifting more consignments from UP.

# Gang of Bangladeshis poses new challenge for police

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A trained gang of Bangladeshis was behind the daring dacoities which had rocked the city in the past. The police are now preparing a dossier on this gang and its modus operandi. Earlier, a similar exercise had kept the cops busy in preparing dossiers on Kachha Baniyan and Bawariya gangs that were active for years.

The police claimed to have solved the mystery following the arrest of three Bangladeshi nationals on Tuesday for their alleged involvement in recent dacoities in Chinhat and Vibhuti Khand of Gomti Nagar.

Now, the case file of Bangladeshi nationals’ gang behind dacoits is at the study table of police. Earlier, police had to burn the midnight oil to study the modus operandi of the kachha baniyan and Bawariya gangs which had kept the cops on their toes for several years.

This Bangladeshi gang allegedly

commits dacoities in posh localities, especially those which are close to railway tracks like Gomti Nagar, particularly Vibhuti Khand, Chinhat, Thakurganj, Aliganj, Vikas Nagar and Mahanagar.

The police suspect that this gang was involved in various dacoities which took place in the past in Lucknow.

Also, the police are probing the syndicate which provides them shelter in the city and which arranged voter identity cards and Aadhaar cards to these Bangladeshis to help them intermingle with the residents in the locality.

According to police dossiers, as many as nine cases of dacoities have been reported in the city in the last six years, all committed by this gang only.

“Most of these incidents took place in posh colonies of Gomti Nagar like Vibhuti Khand where the gang decamped with booty worth over one crore rupees,” sources said.

They said several of the house owners were injured while confronting the dacoits. “The good thing is that the gang members do not harm the house owners and members of the family at the time of the strike,” the sources said.

The police claimed to have solved all of the cases by arresting 10 members of the gang. However, 10 persons named in the crime are still on the run.

In the recent arrest from the Malhaur area on Sunday, three Bangladeshi nationals were arrested. Their modus operandi is like a nomadic gang. They enter India through the porous borders by bribing officials, travel to different states by trains or buses while communicating with each other on mobile phones which they destroy later.

Of all the cases, two attempts of robbery were foiled by the police. These incidents include one on December 9, 2016 at the house of a businessman in Eldeco Colony in

Gomti Nagar and another on October 8 last week at the residence of retired chief planner in Virat Khand.

Sources said that the mastermind of the recently busted gang, Hamza, handles the members and he operates with the help of his local links.

After the recovery of Adhaar card, the Lucknow police are to launch a verification drive across the city to identify the Bangladesh natives living in the city and doing menial jobs. The police have got a clue of the presence of another gang of Bangladeshis in UP and the cops are working further in the case.

In 2017, Local Intelligence Unit (LIU) had prepared a list of 19 places in the city which were safe havens of Bangladeshis. Eight places were in the west police region, seven in Trans-Gomti police region, two in Lucknow East police region and three in North police region. Senior police officials said the police outpost incharges concerned had been asked to keep a tab in above mentioned areas.

# KGMU ophthalmology dept spreads awareness on World Sight Day

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Approximately 285 million people worldwide live with low vision and blindness. Of these, 39 million people are blind and 246 million have moderate or severe visual impairment and 90 per cent of blind people live in low-income countries. Yet 80 per cent of visual impairment is avoidable, that is, readily treatable or preventable. Restoration of sight and blindness prevention strategies are among the most cost-effective interventions in healthcare.

This was stated by senior faculty members at the KGMU ophthalmology department which organised an event held at the Ophthalmology OPD, under the headship of Prof A Kaur on Thursday to raise public awareness of blindness and vision impairment as major public health issues to commemorate the same.

“The department aims to educate the general public about blindness prevention. The objective is to not only increase eye care coverage in the future but also to deliver quality services. The programme aims to spread awareness about eye health and encourage people to go for a preventive eye checkup,” said a senior doctor from the department.

He said that World Sight Day was an annual day of awareness held on the second Thursday of October, to focus global attention on vision impairment, including blindness.

“This day is dedicated towards informing and creating awareness among people. The World Health Organisation is actively involved in this initiative and coordinates various activities and events on this day. Nearly everyone on the planet will experience an eye health issue in their lifetime and more than a billion people worldwide do not have access to eye care services.

To address the bigger picture at the country and global level, we need to be aware of our own eye health, and so the theme for World Sight Day 2021 is all about ‘Love Your Eyes’.

Globally, at least one billion people have near or distance vision impairment that could be prevented or has yet to be addressed.

Vision impairment and blindness can have major and long-lasting effects on all aspects of life, including daily personal activities, interacting with the community, school and work opportunities and the ability to access public services,” he said.

## S-I duped

**Lucknow (PNS):** Unidentified miscreants duped a sub-inspector of Radio CCTV Control Room at High Court in Vibhuti Khand of over Rs 24,000 in the name of KYC of his SIM card.

As per reports, the victim identified as Chhote Lal got a call on Tuesday and was told by the caller that the KYC of his SIM was incomplete. He asked Chhote Lal to complete the KYC verification procedure.

Chhote Lal told the caller that he had run short of talk time balance on the phone. At this the caller asked Chhote Lal to share his ATM card’s details to get the phone recharged with a top-up value.

An unsuspecting Chhote Lal shared the details and the money was withdrawn from his bank account. He then lodged a report with the Cyber Cell and later with the police.

## Three thieves arrested

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Jankipuram police arrested seven thieves and recovered a huge quantity of stolen goods from them on Thursday. The Gosaiganj police also arrested three thieves in a drive on Thursday while the Alambagh police arrested three auto-lifters and recovered a scooter which they had stolen from the area.

In Jankipuram Vistar locality, the police nabbed Afaq, Ishan Bajpai, Ravi Pandey, Sonu, Sandeep and Latif, all of Gudamba, and Aman Rajpoot of BKT. The police are finding the number of thefts they committed in the past.

In Gosaiganj, the police nabbed three thieves who had stolen a tractor owned by one Vinod Kumar on September 6. The thieves were identified as Suhial, Jail Singh and Buddha, all of Kamalpur village of Gosaiganj. Police recovered the stolen tractor and also recovered silver ornaments and Rs 6,000 in cash from them.

In Alambagh, the police nabbed Lavli aka Tushar Kumar Shera, Aman aka Jatin and Dharmendra Gautam, all of Alambagh. The team recovered a scooter which they had stolen from Alambagh. A named FIR against these miscreants is already lodged at the police station and they were on police watch-list.



DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)-III

SECTOR-VII, R.K. PURAM, NEW DELHI-110022

"STOP CORONA ; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene.

N.I.T. NO.24(2021-22) SW-III

S. No.	Description	Amount Put to Tender, Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in E-Procurement Solution)	Last date/time of receipt of Tender Trough E-Procurement Solution
1.	Replacement of existing old/damaged water line to avoid the frequent contamination at J-2 block DDA Flats Kalkaji under EE(South)-III(AC-50)	Rs. 28,24,692/- Rs. 500/-	13.10.2021 Tender I.D.No. 2021_DJB_209612_1	27.10.2021 At 2.00 PM.

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)

Advt. No. J.S.V. 489(2021-22)

Sd/-

(Naveen Kumar Khare)

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M)-50

HDFC BANK

Nikhlesh Palace, 1st Floor, Ashok Marg, Hazratganj, Lucknow 226001

We understand your world

POSSESSION NOTICE APPENDIX IV [RULE 8(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the HDFC Bank Ltd. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued under the said Act, and calling upon to pay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Details are given as under:-

Customer Name	Notice Amount	Description of Property	13(2) Notice Date
1. Mr. Alok Rai (Borrower & Co-Borrower) 2. Mrs. Neetu Rai (Co-Borrower)	Rs. 4,41,618/- (Rupees Four Lacs Forty One Thousand Six Hundred and Eighteen Only)	Mortgage Property: Residential Flat, No. 29/101, Type-Gandhar, on The Ground Floor, Block 29, Measuring 57.182 Sq.mtrs., Situated At Sahara Estates, Village-Madiyaganj, Pargana-Mohana, Tehsil- Bakshi Ka Talab, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Bounded As Under: East-Flat No. 29/104, West-Flat No. 30/104, North-Flat No. 29/102, South-Open	15/Jul/2021 Possession Date 11/Oct/2021
1. Mr. Anurag Singh (Borrower) 2. Mr. Anoop Yadav (Co-Borrower) 3. Mr. Parasnath Singh Yadav (Co-Borrower & Mortgage)	Rs. 43,09,888/- (Rupees Forty Three Lacs Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Eight Only)	Mortgage Property: Plot No 8/16, Admeasuring 288 Sq Metre Situated At Vikas Nagar Awas Yojna, Ward Lohia Nagar, Tehsil Ad District Lucknow, Bounded As Under: East - House No 8/15, West- House No 8/17, North- House No 3/342, South- 18 Mtr Wide Road	13(2) Notice Date 24/Jul/2021 Possession Date 11/Oct/2021
1. M/s. Avi Enterprises (Borrower) 2. Mr. Bhaskar Mall (Co-Borrower) 3. Mrs. Vimala Mall (Co-Borrower & Mortgage)	Rs. 13,44,156/- (Rupees Thirteen Lacs Forty Four Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Six Only)	Mortgage Property: House No C-1251 (M.I.G.) Admeasuring 231.44 Sq Mtr, Situated At Block C Indira Nagar, Tehsil & District Lucknow, Bounded As Under: East-House No C-1249, West- House No C-1253, North- House No C-1309, South- 18.38 Mtr Wide Road	13(2) Notice Date 15/Jul/2021 Possession Date 12/Oct/2021
1. Mr. Praphul Srivastava (Borrower & Mortgage) 2. Mr. Prasan Srivastava (Co-Borrower)	Rs. 13,39,874/- (Rupees Thirteen Lacs Thirty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Four Only)	Mortgage Property: Flat No A/23/33/01 On 3rd Floor Admeasuring 59.69 Sq Mtr Situated At Sec 1, Gomti Nagar Vistar Yojna, Ward Rauli Ahmad Kidwai Nagar, Tehsil & District Lucknow, Bounded As Under: Adjoining : A-23/32 & 34/01, On Top : Terrace, At Bottom : A-23/23/01	13(2) Notice Date 15/Jul/2021 Possession Date 12/Oct/2021

The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules, on above mentioned dates. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of the HDFC Bank Ltd. for an amount of notices mentioned above and interest thereon together with expenses and charges etc. less amount paid, if any. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DATE :- 12/10/2021, PLACE :- LUCKNOW

Authorised Officer, HDFC Bank Ltd.

AXIS BANK LIMITED

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION OF PLEDGED ASSETS BEING GOLD ORNAMENTS

THE BORROWERS, IN SPECIFIC AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HERE BY NOTIFIED THAT PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE GOLD ORNAMENTS PLEDGE IN THE BELOW ACCOUNTS IS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE AXIS BANK AT THE BELOW MENTIONED BRANCH. THE BELOW MENTIONED BORROWERS HAS AVAILED THE CREDIT FACILITY FROM THE AXIS BANK LIMITED AGAINST THE PLEDGE OF GOLD ORNAMENTS ("GOLD LOAN FACILITY") IN FAVOUR OF THE BANK TOWARDS THE SECURITY. THE DEMAND NOTICES WERE ISSUED TO THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS CALLING UP THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS TO PAY THEIR OUTSTANDING AMOUNT TOWARDS THE GOLD LOAN FACILITY AVAILED. AS THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS HAVE FAILED TO REPLY THE OUTSTANDING LOAN AMOUNT, THE BANK IS CONSTRAINED TO INVOKE THE PLEDGE AND PROPOSED TO CONDUCT AN E-AUCTION SALE OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY HEREUNDER ON 25.10.2021 AT 12.30 PM TO 3.30 PM ON 'AS IN WHERE IS', 'AS IS WHAT IS', 'WHATEVER THERE IS' AND 'NO RECOURSE BASIS'. DETAILS OF BORROWERS AND OUTSTANDING AMOUNT

SR. NO.	BRANCH NAME	CUSTOMER NAME	LOAN A/C NO.	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING	DATE OF RECALL	GROSS WEIGHT
BRANCH NAME: AGRA [UP]						
1.	AGRA [UP]	ARIF AZIZ	920060050312291	380487	12-Aug-21	90
2.	AGRA [UP]	AMBUJ PRAKASH PARASHAR	921060050232242	225121	22-Jun-21	16.2
3.	AGRA [UP]	AZIZ AHMED	919060062258859	182347	7-Jun-21	111.2
4.	AGRA [UP]	AZIZ AHMED	919060056988584	172336	7-Jun-21	58.5
BRANCH NAME: ALAMBAGH, LUCKNOW [UP]						
5.	ALAMBAGH, LUCKNOW [UP]	SAJID AHMAD KHAN	920060053886480	199992	25-Mar-21	65.5
BRANCH NAME: AMROHA [UP]						
6.	AMROHA [UP]	MARAZUL	920060051292189	324333	20-May-21	92.2
BRANCH NAME: AZAMGARH [UP]						
7.	AZAMGARH [UP]	RAVIKANT SINGH	919060011806524	520492	27-Oct-20	218
BRANCH NAME: BAGHPAT [UP]						
8.	BAGHPAT [UP]	SATYAVIR S/O RAIPAL	918060093724135	108289	26-Nov-19	38.59
9.	BAGHPAT [UP]	SATYAVIR S/O RAIPAL	918060107734813	67786	28-Jan-20	19.77
BRANCH NAME: DEOBAND DOB UP						
10.	DEOBAND DOB UP	JAMEEL KHAN	918060042631620	103751	25-Nov-19	NO GDR
11.	DEOBAND DOB UP	MOHD DANISH	919060065046123	82082	28-Sep-20	24.35
12.	DEOBAND DOB UP	SAIF RIZVI	918060072814549	70217	25-Nov-19	17.8
BRANCH NAME: DHAMPUR BIJ UP						
13.	DHAMPUR BIJ UP	RAHUL KUMAR	920060053493412	101000	7-Jun-21	37.9
BRANCH NAME: ETAWAH [UP]						
14.	ETAWAH [UP]	ANIL KUMAR YADAV	920060052703741	61123	30-Apr-21	21.75
BRANCH NAME: FAIZABAD [UP]						
15.	FAIZABAD [UP]	NIMMI SINGH	920060052556587	138189	20-May-21	77.5
16.	FAIZABAD [UP]	ATUL KUMAR	920060011905511	55295	27-Oct-20	15.9
BRANCH NAME: GAJRAULA [UP]						
17.	GAJRAULA [UP]	SABEEUDDIN	919060074767321	202398	2-Dec-20	104.74
18.	GAJRAULA [UP]	SABEEUDDIN	919060029357636	131059	27-Oct-20	60.81
BRANCH NAME: GOLA GOKARANNAT GLA UP						
19.	GOLA GOKARANNAT GLA UP	GURPAL SINGH	920060021014058	201733	7-May-21	70.5
20.	GOLA GOKARANNAT GLA UP	GURUSEVAK SINGH	92006001394662	93673	15-Mar-21	20.49
BRANCH NAME: GORAKHPUR [UP]						
21.	GORAKHPUR [UP]	AVINASH PANDEY	921060054536979	167631	16-Aug-21	66.3
22.	GORAKHPUR [UP]	VIRENDRA MANI TRIPATHI	921060052115439	71176	11-Jun-21	40.3
23.	GORAKHPUR [UP]	AMLESH PANDEY	920060053591590	522167	22-Jun-21	33.2
24.	GORAKHPUR [UP]	PARMESHWAR PANDEY	920060053752288	138826	25-Mar-21	52.7
25.	GORAKHPUR [UP]	SHAIL PANDEY	920060052803304	95970	22-Jun-21	22.9
26.	GORAKHPUR [UP]	SHAILENDRA SINGH	920060053329450	93506	19-Jul-21	34.8
BRANCH NAME: HARDOI [UP]						
27.	HARDOI [UP]	RAVI MEHROTRA	920060050860057	388580	7-Jun-21	141.135
BRANCH NAME: INDIRA NAGAR, LUCKNOW [UP]						
28.	INDIRA NAGAR, LUCKNOW [UP]	DOODH NATH TYAGEE	920060049773212	706272	19-Jul-21	269.6
29.	INDIRA NAGAR, LUCKNOW [UP]	ANJU KUMAR PAL	921060054008032	109054	22-Jun-21	21.9
30.	INDIRA NAGAR, LUCKNOW [UP]	ALOK DIXIT	920060053674815	65830	20-May-21	11.1
BRANCH NAME: KANPUR [UP]						
31.	KANPUR [UP]	DEVESH DUBEY	920060049965893	418372	26-Dec-20	130.7
32.	KANPUR [UP]	SABIA PARVEEN JUNAID	920060050110831	307840	16-Sep-21	117.2
33.	KANPUR [UP]	LAXMI DEVI	921060049614990	713168	7-May-21	61.6
34.	KANPUR [UP]	SANDEEP KUMAR SINGH	920060015562624	120912	22-Jun-21	25.5
35.	KANPUR [UP]	ZEESHAN ZAHEER	919060020344394	80259	26-Dec-20	52
BRANCH NAME: LUCKNOW [UP]						
36.	LUCKNOW [UP]	MOHAMMAD ASHFAG	920060051252880	358519	26-Dec-20	124.2
37.	LUCKNOW [UP]	RUCHI DEVI	921060052198887	143071	20-May-21	50.8
38.	LUCKNOW [UP]	SUDHIR KUMAR	920060010418474	137381	27-Oct-20	58.9
39.	LUCKNOW [UP]	TRAYAMBAK KUMAR RAI	921060051094788	122889	30-Apr-21	67.3
40.	LUCKNOW [UP]	KANCHAN SHUKLA	920060053284739	62756	19-Jul-21	22.4
BRANCH NAME: MEERUT [UP]						
41.	MEERUT [UP]	WASIM	920060052651682	614645	22-Jun-21	266.3
42.	MEERUT [UP]	WASIM	920060051176016	406312	22-Jun-21	116.2
43.	MEERUT [UP]	MAHESH CHAUDHARY	920060051379736	307669	20-May-21	109
44.	MEERUT [UP]	SHAMSUDDIN	920060042804588	427822	22-Jun-21	73.2
45.	MEERUT [UP]	NITIN KUMAR	920060050100559	173371	15-Mar-21	60.1
46.	MEERUT [UP]	ARSALA	920060051475384	161470	15-Mar-21	52.6
47.	MEERUT [UP]	NITIN KUMAR	920060050591654	139289	25-Mar-21	49.5
48.	MEERUT [UP]	ARIF	920060048475694	60630	19-Jul-21	10.4
49.	MEERUT [UP]	NAUSHAD	920060053807998	48606	16-Sep-21	20.4
BRANCH NAME: MORADABAD [UP]						
50.	MORADABAD [UP]	NASIR ALI	920060051122831	522821	26-Dec-20	185.1
51.	MORADABAD [UP]	NASIR ALI	920060051427062	341559	25-Mar-21	119
52.	MORADABAD [UP]	ASHISH TYAGI	920060038598040	161701	19-Jul-21	91.9
BRANCH NAME: NAJIBABAD [UP]						
53.	NAJIBABAD [UP]	MOHD SHAHVEZ	920060042184901	193300	7-Jun-21	76.86
BRANCH NAME: SAMBALH [UP]						
54.	SAMBHAL [UP]	FURKAN ALI	920060053688609	291619	7-May-21	29.9
55.	SAMBHAL [UP]	MUKESH	920060038389655	104801	9-Aug-21	47.6
BRANCH NAME: SHAHJAHANPUR [UP]						
56.	SHAHJAHANPUR [UP]	ANIL KUMAR SHUKLA	919060060504352	39186	26-Dec-20	20
BRANCH NAME: SHAMLI, UTTAR P SHM UP						
57.	SHAMLI, UTTAR P SHM UP	MOHD SAMI	919060064797116	207080	28-Sep-20	99.6
58.	SHAMLI, UTTAR P SHM UP	NAFEES AHAMAD	918060110353955	185394	28-Jan-20	71.8
BRANCH NAME: SHIKOHABAD, FIRO FRZ UP						
59.	SHIKOHABAD, FIRO FRZ UP	KAPIL DEV SINGH	917060047751052	94704	21-Aug-18	NO GDR
BRANCH NAME: VARANASI [UP]						
60.	VARANASI [UP]	RAM PRAKASH PANDEY	920060049856809	301051	25-Mar-21	101
61.	VARANASI [UP]	RAM PRAKASH PANDEY	920060049876641	300447	25-Mar-21	114.7
62.	VARANASI [UP]	RAM PRAKASH PANDEY	920060052970466	39182	25-Mar-21	17.4
63.	VARANASI [UP]	RAM PRAKASH PANDEY	920060049831069	39212	25-Mar-21	17.4
64.	VARANASI [UP]	NANDLAL RAI	920060050182548	352537	25-Mar-21	136.5
65.	VARANASI [UP]	MANOJ KUMAR	920060051660388	35594	25-Mar-21	15.3

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# Number of Sainik schools to double in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Giving a further boost to the Education system in Uttar Pradesh, the state is soon going to see the number of Sainik Schools getting doubled. Aiming at providing value-based education, this initiative will fulfill the dream of many students to get better education along with a disciplined life.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Central government for the approval in this direction. He said, "By increasing the participation of private schools in opening Sainik Schools after the approval of the Centre, the number of Sainik Schools in UP will increase significantly. This will make the path of admission easier."

In a big move, the Union government has decided to affiliate 100 government schools, private schools and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with the Sainik Schools Society, Ministry of Defence, from the 2022-23

academic year. These schools will be different from existing Sainik Schools and will focus on providing cost-effective ways to the larger populations across the country. This initiative has been taken under the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP).

Currently, the Sainik School Society is running three schools in UP while Captain Manoj Pandey Sainik School is under the state government. After the decision of the Centre, the number of Sainik Schools will increase in UP. This will ease up the admission process and a large number of students can enroll themselves.

Around 33 Sainik Schools are run by the Ministry of Defence all over the country. UP has the highest number of Sainik Schools as compared to other states. Three Sainik Schools are being run by the Defence Ministry in UP at Amethi, Jhansi, and Mainpuri, while a Sainik School is proposed to be opened in Baghatp.

The construction work of Sainik School in Gorakhpur

has started, for which the government has also passed a budget of Rs 90 crore. The UP Sainik School in Lucknow, run by the state government, is the first military school in the country. After this, the Ministry of Defence got all other Sainik Schools built across the country. These schools are affiliated with CBSE.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has sent a proposal to the Centre to set up a Sainik School in every division. At Sainik Schools, students get a high-quality education at low fees. In such a situation, the proposal of opening Sainik Schools in every division will give a big relief to those parents who are unable to send their children to good schools due to high fee structures.

For girls dreaming of joining the army, the UP government has passed a proposal in the budget to develop Captain Manoj Pandey Sainik School in Sarojininar and double its capacity. The state government is constructing a hostel with a capacity of 150 for girl cadets.

# Countdown for piped water supply starts in Bundelkhand villages

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The countdown for piped water supply has started in the villages of Bundelkhand region as the state government has almost completed the work of laying the main line for water supply under 'Har Ghar Nal' Yojana, one of the most ambitious projects of the government which is set to change the face of Bundelkhand that has been facing water crisis for many decades.

Starting from the last week of November, households of Bundelkhand will have water supply connections. The Namami Gange and Rural Water Supply department are going to start a trial run of water supply in the villages of Bundelkhand and in all probability, the state government will start a door-to-door supply of drinking water in thousands of villages of the region from December. Under Jal Jeevan Mission, Har Ghar Nal Yojana will be on the ground six months ahead of schedule.

'Piped water supply is set to start in the villages of Jalaun, Hamirpur, Banda, Mahoba and Lalitpur districts. Instructions have been given to expedite the work after reviewing preparations. Work is going at rapid pace on a total of 467 piped drinking water schemes in 32 projects. Under Har Ghar Nal Yojana, more than 11.95 lakh households of Bundelkhand will be supplied with pure water. Nearly 70 per cent of water treatment plants in various districts of Bundelkhand, including Jhansi and Mahoba, has been completed. Now, the department is preparing to start

**The Namami Gange and Rural Water Supply department are going to start a trial run of water supply in the villages of Bundelkhand and in all probability, the state government will start a door-to-door supply of drinking water in thousands of villages of the region from December**

water supply in the villages from coming December. The supply of clean drinking water will save the people of the area from diseases and also do away with the decade-old problem of unavailability of water," said Principal Secretary (Namami Gange) Anurag Srivastava.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission in Bundelkhand region, a total of 467 piped drinking water schemes are being implemented in 32 projects at a rapid pace. Of these, 43 are surface water-based schemes and 424 are groundwater-based. Through these schemes, arrangements will be made for 11,95,265 functional home water connections for a total population of 72,68,705 of 3823 revenue villages. These projects will benefit 40 tehsils, 68 development blocks and 2,608 gram panchayats in seven districts of Bundelkhand region.

# Mayawati concern over rising prices

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati, who targeted both Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress governments over killing of farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri and attack on Dalit in Rajasthan, on Thursday attacked the Central and state governments over the ever-increasing prices of petrochemicals and other essential items.

Along with this, the BSP chief also advised strict and effective steps to check inflation.

On Thursday, she tweeted that due to rising prices of petrol, diesel and LPG on one hand and rising prices of everyday items on the other hand, the common man's life was completely disturbed and troubled. She said the Central and all state governments should immediately take strict and effective steps to provide relief to the people. Earlier too,

Mayawati had tweeted on the brutal lynching of a Dalit in Congress-ruled Rajasthan. Mayawati said that it was discussed and condemned all over the country, but the leadership of the Congress not only maintained silence but also restricted its Dalit leaders to speak on the issue.

She said that in the eyes of the Congress party and its governments, the Dalits had no importance earlier, nor was there any special care for their life, property and safety now.

# Students made aware of consumer rights

PNS (Lucknow): The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 was enacted to protect the rights of consumers and curb unfair trade practices in the rapidly changing technology and e-marketing era.



# Durga Puja pandals see rush on last day of Navratri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Despite all the restrictions and appeals relating to possible third wave of COVID-19, rush of devotees thronged 250-odd Durga Puja pandals in different parts of the city, which is popular for grandeur of this festival in this region and known as 'Mini Kolkata', on the last day of Shardiya Navratra here on Thursday. However, the rush was much bigger than last year but not as heavy as it was generally seen on this auspicious occasion in the past. To avoid the rush, several families preferred to visit these pandals during the day time but the real rush was seen in the evening hours when the city was glittered with attractive lighting arrangements. However, no impact of the coronavirus pandemic was seen and in view of the rush of visitors, elaborate security and other arrangements have been made. The activities of trouble makers and anti-social elements were watched through CCTV cameras installed at almost all the big pandals.

The rush was mainly seen in Lahurabir, Siga, Luxa, Godowlia, Sonarpura, Bhelupur, Maidagin, and many areas in trans-Varuna area including Shivpur, Pandeypur, Orderly Bazar, Pahadihya and some others where several idols



Rush of people being seen at Ramkrishna Mission Durga Puja site in Varanasi on Thursday.

Pioneer

of Goddess Durga were installed within a short distance. Various traditional rituals were performed at different pandals and a good rush of people was seen throughout the day at almost all the pandals of Bangiya Samaj including Ramkrishna Mission and Bharat Sewa Sangh where the people performed rituals with traditional gaiety and religious fervour.

Meanwhile, seeing the rush Additional Director/Chief

Medical Officer Dr VB Singh appealed to the people to celebrate the festival maintaining COVID-19 guidelines as the district has yet not become completely corona free. 'Seeing no corona cases for the last few days, many people have started showing laxity in obeying COVID-19 guidelines', he said, appealing to all not to ignore the protection from pandemic by wearing regular masks at public places, use of sanitisers and maintaining of two yards

distance. According to him, both the district administration and Health department have become fully alert after getting a corona positive case on Tuesday. According to him, the people should be more cautious during the festivals because after Durga Puja, heavy rush is also expected to be seen in the markets during the forthcoming festivals. He appealed to the people to go to public places only when absolutely necessary.

## Navratri ends with Kanya Puja at Krikund

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Traditional Kanya Pujan marked the end of the Shardiya Navratri at Baba Keenaram Ashram, Krinkund near Shivala here on Thursday. Although the worship of girls is of special importance in Shardiya Navratri, but this time to avoid the possible third wave, girls were worshipped following the COVID-19 guidelines amidst the blessings of Baba Siddhartha Gautam Ram. On the occasion, as per the tradition, Bhairav Puja programme was also held at the ashram.

On the occasion, a large number of devotees reached Keenaram Sthal premises, maintaining social distance



Kanya Puja rituals being held at Keenaram Ashram in Varanasi on Thursday.

and took blessings by worshipping the Kanyas (girls) and Bhairava. Prior to this, the feet of the girls were painted with mahavar (red colours) for auspiciousness and they were

given new clothes, bindi, kumkum and chunris followed by offering of satvik (vegetarian) food containing puris, vegetables, kheer, curd, sweets and seasonal fruits.

Nine goddess forms of Kanya and Bhairav blessed the devotees and the prayers to them were performed by Acharya Prakash and Sangeta Singh. For the successful organisation of the programme, the administrator of the ashram Arun Singh and members Abhinav, Aaradhya, Soumya, Ayush, Gunjan, Nanaji, Virendra, Bau, Suresh, Kailash Mali, Vinay, Sanjay, Golu, Anshu, Rahul, Bhupendra Pratap Singh alias Rintu, Jaswant, Govardhan, Mantu, Upendra Singh, Vaibhav, Fagu and Abhishek and others made commendable contributions. Similarly, Kanya Pujan programmes were also organised at several other places apart from thousands of houses.

## Devotees throng Siddhidatri temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Thousands of devotees thronged Siddhidatri Devi temple at Golghar in Bulanala area on the auspicious occasion of Navmi, the last day of the Shardiya Navratra here on Thursday. Besides, heavy rush was also seen throughout the day at Durga Mandir (Durga Kund) as usual. Rush of devotees was also seen at all other temples of goddesses including the old Durga Mandir in trans-Ganga Ramnagar and Maa Sheetla Mata Mandir at Adalpur near Varanasi-Mirzapur borders. Hundreds of people also went to Vindhychal in Mirzapur district.

Earlier, on the seventh eve of ongoing Navratri Mahotsav, being organised under the joint aegis of Tourism department, Aashrey Sewa Sanstha and Subah-e-Banaras at open stage of Dr Rajendra Prasad Ghat



Devotees offering prayers at Siddhidatri Temple on the occasion of Navmi in Varanasi on Thursday.

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near Dashashwamedh, the cultural programme began with the presentation of bhajan devoted to Goddess Durga by local singer Suman Agrahari. This was followed by a presentation by Dr Kamala Shankar (guitar) and songs by Aditi Chakraborty. Mannu Yadav, Santosh Mishra, Shailbala

Mishra and Mamta Sharma also presented their programmes.

Then Soni Seth presented Kathak, while Dr Ashesh Narayan Mishra a programme on tabla.

The last programme of the day was of eminent folk singer Bharat Sharma Vyas who mes-

merised the audience by presenting his popular songs 'Nimiya Ke Daar Maiya...', 'Gharhein Mein Mai Ke Bulaib...', and 'Mai Ke Baserwa Ba Nimiya Ke Daar...'

In the beginning, the day's programme was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Neelkanth Tiwari, along with Vijay Shankar Rastogi, Swami Jitendranand Saraswati, Rahul Singh, Jagjitan Pandey, Dr Virendra Pratap Singh, Deepak Mishra and Dr Ratnesh Verma. The guests were welcomed by Pramod Kumar Mishra. The programme was conducted by Dr Preetesh Acharya and coordinated by Pawan Shukla. The Minister also honoured several personalities who made remarkable contributions in various fields. Regional Tourism Officer Kirtiman Srivastava gave the vote of thanks.

## Modi likely to visit Kashi this month

**VARANASI (PNS):** The administrative as well as political activities among the officers and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers have been increased as it is expected that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi may visit his parliamentary constituency during the last week of the month. As per some reports, the PM may visit here on October 25 but the date has yet not been finalised. Though the programme of the PM has yet not been confirmed, it is expected for the last many weeks that he would come here soon since the rival parties have intensified their political activities. In view of the possible arrival of the PM, the administrative officers have intensified their activities to finalise the list of major projects which have already been completed so that they can be inaugurated by Modi. Besides, the BJP leaders have also inten-

sified their activities to finalise the suitable venue for a public meeting through which the message of Modi can be spread in the wider areas of this region of Purvanchal (eastern UP) on the eve for upcoming assembly elections. It is also expected that during his visit, Modi may give some big 'Deepawali' gift to the people of his parliamentary constituency. Earlier, Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal reviewed the major projects being completed in the district at a meeting here on Wednesday. The officials of Varanasi Development Authority (VDA), Municipal Corporation, Tourism, PWD, Irrigation, Bridge Corporation, National Highway, UP Project Corporation, Rajkiya Nirman Nigam, Jal Nigam, C&DS, Ganga Pollution Control Unit, CPWD, UP SIDCO and Mandi Parishad were present in the

meeting as several major projects of these departments have almost been completed. In the meeting, the DC inquired in detail about all the projects one by one. He gave clear instructions to the concerned departmental officers that senior officers should personally inspect the project by visiting the spot. 'If there is any minor defect, get it fixed immediately and check again after it is fixed', he asked the officers, instructing them to ensure completion of projects error free.

**E-SERVICE CENTRE INAUGURATED:** With an aim to update both parties with the latest information in legal matters, the District Legal Service Authority has started an 'e-Service Centre'. Now, the parties of legal matters can update themselves with the latest position of their cases, date of next hearing of the cases, etc and also submit their

matters online through this centre. The District Judge (DJ) Dr Ajay Krishna Vishwesh inaugurated the e-service centre during the legal awareness camp organised at the district court here. Such camps were also organised at other places in the city as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on Wednesday. With the functioning of the centre, both parties of any legal matter can now make e-filing of their matters and they also could be update with the position of the case, date of next hearing of the case, latest information about free legal service, etc, he said adding, the parties could also make online payment of the court fee. The district secretary of the authority Kumud Lata Tripathi apprised the inmates of the jail of the free legal help to them, their fundamental rights and duties through virtually during the camp.

## NCR GM asks for fast clearance of coal rakes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

North Central Railway GM Pramod Kumar instructed the officials for fast clearance of coal rakes. Round the clock manning of control rooms by officers to ensure zero detention of coal rakes should be there, he underlined at a Safety and Punctuality Review Meeting held at NCR Headquarters.

DRMs of Agra, Prayagraj and Jhansi joined the meeting through video conferencing.

In view of the coal crisis in the country, Railways have also taken charge to expedite movement of coal rakes. During the meeting GM NCR analysed the position of coal movement through NCR. He reiterated his earlier instruction of manning

control rooms with officers to ensure zero detention of coal rakes.

NCR receives loaded coal rakes from ECR, ER, SER, ECoR and SECR and supplies to the power plants of UP, Delhi, Punjab and Haryana located in NCR and NR areas. Officers have been deputed in control rooms at Tundla, Prayagraj, Jhansi and Agra and are monitoring the movement of coal rakes. GM NCR is taking the real time position of all the coal rakes on run in NCR.

GM also instructed deputy officials at unloading sites of power houses of NCR to ensure no detention during unloading and speedy clearance of empty rakes. GM has laid special stress on mobility of empty rakes so that they could be

available for next loading at the earliest. During the discussion GM also asked to take steps to minimise asset failures which are adversely affecting mobility.

During the meeting, positions of ongoing works were also discussed. The progress of ongoing passenger amenities items-- lifts, escalators was also reviewed during the meeting.

It was informed that work is in progress for 31 more escalators over the various important stations of NCR. This includes eight escalators each at Prayagraj Jn and Kanpur Central stations.

At Prayagraj Jn, the escalators will be provided at City side Line Shah Baba Bridge near RRI-1, FOB no.3 near

RMS-1, Civil Line Side C.A.-1, PF-4/5 FOB No.3-2, PF-6 FOB No.4-1, PF-1 FOB No.4-1. Out of these eight escalators, five are planned to be installed during current financial year.

At Kanpur Central, the escalators will be provided one each at PF-2/3, 4/5, Ghanta Ghar side-(HWH end), 6/7 and two each at Platform no. 8/9 and at bridge on Cantt. Side. Staff welfare issues were also discussed during the meeting. The issues included the non agenda items raised by recognised unions of the zone during PNM meetings. Apart from this, GM NCR expressed concern over pending requests for mutual transfer cases of employees and directed to finalise all such cases at the earliest.

## CORE striving to electrify Indian Railways network

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE), Prayagraj is striving to electrify the entire network of Indian Railways before December 2023.

The process of electrification should be time-bound as well as quality. It is also the responsibility of the CORE to maintain the quality of the items used in electrification such as steel poles, copper and aluminium wires and various steel fittings.

It is to be known that any manufacturer has to take approval from the Material Planning Department of the CORE to make the goods used in rail electrification. The supplier is thoroughly quality-checked by the CORE prior to approval.

A seminar was organized on Thursday on the quality of steel poles and transmission line towers used for electrification in CORE, in which several points to be taken care of in quality assurance by M/s KEC International Gaya.

The General Manager, CORE Yashpal Singh, said that under the "Know Your Vendor" scheme by the CORE, the quality parameters of all the main suppliers are continuously evaluated. In today's seminar, various aspects of steel structures such as strength, corrosion resistance, bedding-moment, etc., were discussed in detail about steps to maintain quality. Singh expressed hope that with the exchange of quality information between the officials and the industry, the process of rail-electrification

would be completed more quickly. Chief Administrative Officer Arun Kumar, Principal Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer Suresh Kumar, Chief Electrical Engineer (P&D) Harsh Khare, Chief Electrical Engineer (PS) J.C.S.Bora, Chief Electrical Engineer (Planning) attended the seminar) S.S.Negi, Chief Electrical Engineer (Work) Pushpendra Raman Tripathi, Chief Electrical Engineer (MP) D.K.Srivastava, and Secretary/General Manager SK Mishra, were present.

## Lakhs of devotees throng Durga puja mandaps, temples

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Durga Puja mandaps and Devi temples attracted lakhs of devotees and also teen-agers on the auspicious days of Maha Navmi in the city. Streets remained over-crowded and it took hours to cover a distance of one kilometer on a four-wheeler with family. Those who visited temples in the morning saved much of their time, while those who planned their visits for evening hours had to face severe traffic jams.

The traffic police also kept on issuing alerts regarding traffic jams and diversions to maintain the flow of vehicles, but all arrangements failed in



the evening hours when people came out on their vehicles to visit Puja Mandaps in different localities.

Kalyani Devi, Lalita Davi and Alop Shankari temples attracted huge crowd, while the very well decorated Durga Puja Mandaps pulled the youth besides the Bengalis who celebrate this festival with traditional gaiety and fervour. The Patharchatti, Katra and Naini Ram Lilas, based on the sound track of Ramanand Sagar's TV serial, have also proved themselves as crowd pullers, while the traditional street lighting and taking out of tableau in late night hours make the Dussehra of Allahabad as world famous.

## Data meter device creates chaos

The transmitter and SIM-containing bulb holder board-like device found from the house of a Bajrang Dal worker in Bharwari, the municipality of Kokhraj area in neighboring Kaushambi district, turned out to be a data meter device which is being installed by Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) in some houses under the Gram Ujala Yojana.

The SIM card installed in it is connected to the central server which is used to collect information through the wireless system. Later the police officers told that this is a data meter, there is no conspiracy in this.

SP Kaushambi said the device found from the fertilizer trader's house was being investigated. Apart from the SOG and surveillance team, the help of experts was taken for the information of the device. From the information provided by CESL, it became clear that this is a data meter being installed by the company in homes for analysis. There is no conspiracy in this.

Kaushambi Police was engaged in investigation about the device, meanwhile, a release from Delhi on behalf of Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) was said that these devices have been distrib-

uted under the Gram Ujala scheme. This company has given seven and 12 watt LED bulbs at the rate of Rs 10 under the Gram Ujala scheme. 30 lakh bulbs were distributed under this scheme in UP and Bihar. The device, called a data meter, is being installed randomly in some households to find out how many consumers are using the bulbs distributed from this project, the release said.

The number of hours of bulb usage captured by the data meter is used to calculate the number of carbon credits generated by using LED bulbs in place of old bulbs. The data meters are installed at the homes of the consumers for 90 days with their consent. It sends information wirelessly from the mobile network to the central server so the SIM card is inserted in the data meter. In UP, the work of installing data meters in homes has been started by the authorized agency from October 3. CESL claims that this work is being done completely legally. In such a situation, people should not fall in the trap of any kind of rumor regarding the data meter. The police-administration has also been made aware of this at the highest level.

Earlier, police officers were assuming that this device was

prepared under some conspiracy and was delivered to that house and all this could also be part of some terrorist activity.

Brijesh Kesarwani, a resident of Gaura Road in Bharwari town, is a fertilizer trader. His son Aniket is a worker of Bajrang Dal. Brijesh said that a week ago, two youths came and started talking about selling a company's LED bulbs for 10-10 rupees. He sold bulbs at many places in the town. Brijesh was also given a holder box along with the bulb in the lucky draw. Two days ago the holder box got damaged. Brijesh took him to several electricians to get it repaired, but they refused to repair it. It was also told that the transmitter, IC and mobile SIM card is installed in this bulb holder box. This device can be a means of a terrorist conspiracy. Hearing this, Brijesh was taken back. On Tuesday, he informed the police about this.

As soon as the information about this suspicious device was received, the SOG and surveillance team, including the Kokhraj Inspector, also reached to investigate. Police officers believe that all the parts installed in the holder box are connected to the WiFi tracker. Brijesh also told the police the mobile number of one of the youths who sold the holder. In

Truecaller, it is telling the mobile number as Rajput, while the miscreant had told his name as Haider. The mobile number which was given to Brijesh Kesarwani was traced and it turned out to be of Prayagraj.

In such a situation, SOG has also reached Prayagraj in search of him. People also started saying that the device was recovered from the worker of the Hindu organization, where the office bearers of the Hindu organization keep meeting in the morning and evening.

Next to it is also the house of the district organization minister of Vishwa Hindu Parishad.

In such a situation, doubts were raised whether planning was being done to trace the activities of these workers through this device and carry out any major conspiracy.

Apart from IC and command in the device, transmission is also installed. Looking at its device, it is clear that the device has a WiFi system, whose coverage area is up to 100 meters.

Through 2G SIM card and transmission, the voice and area of the people can be traced through this. Whoever designed this device may have criminal intent.

## HC CJ administers oath to 8 judges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court, Justice Rajesh Bindal, administered oath to eight lawyers as additional judges of the High Court.

The oath was administered by the Chief Justice in a simple and graceful ceremony

at his courtroom.

The lawyers who took oath as additional judges of Allahabad High Court are: Justice Chandra Kumar Rai, Justice Krishna Pahal, Justice Sameer Jain, Justice Ashutosh Srivastava, Justice Subhash Vidyarthi, Justice Brij Raj Singh, Justice Shree Prakash Singh and Justice Vikas

Budhwar. With eight more judges, now the number of judges in Allahabad High court has increased to 97 out of 160 sanctioned posts, including Chief Justice.

**INSPECTION:** While NCR is striving hard to upgrade passenger amenities at its stations, efforts are also on to create public awareness

about proper use of these facilities. During his recent inspection of Gwalior Railway Station here recently, GM Pramod Kumar asked to check whether emergency stop buttons are provided and working properly on the escalator. He himself got it checked as he boarded the escalator and found it working properly.



# Green Park stadium to have ‘Visitor Gallery’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raj Shekhar after the inspection of the Green Park stadium on Thursday said Green Park thrived still in the annals of cricket history and was still known for its wonderful lush green manicured lawns the world over. He appealed to cricket lovers across the world to extend full support to this unique initiative of setting up an exclusive ‘Visitor Gallery’ at the historical Green Park Kanpur by donating anything related to special memories of Green Park stadium. He said the Visitor Gallery would be opened for public somewhere at the end of November this year thus a humble appeal was being made to the cricket lovers to contact by November 15, 2021 to accommodate something special related to this stadium.

He said Kanpur Smart City Limited (KSCL), in collaboration with the Department of Sports, Uttar Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) was setting up a ‘Visitor Gallery’ in Green Park stadium Kanpur. He said this was as per the vision of PM ,CM and Sports Minister of UP to support and encourage sports in India . He said this visitor gallery will emerge as



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raj Shekhar inspecting the Directors Pavilion of Green Park Stadium.

Pioneer

one of the ‘Must Visit Place’ for all cricket lovers. He said this Gallery will show case many items depicting memorable moments of last around 70 years of cricket at Green Park stadium.

Dr Shekhar said Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI), Uttar Pradesh Cricket

Association (UPCA) & Sports Department of Uttar Pradesh were helping Kanpur Smart City Limited (KSCL) in arranging various items (like Photographs, cricket equipment, newspaper clippings, Trophies, Medals and other items related to Green Park stadium.

He said as cricket was most liked and followed Sports in India it also had special place in the heart of millions of Indians. He said it would be an honour to display all the items in the upcoming Visitors Gallery for cricket enthusiasts who visit Green Park stadium.

# Kashi Jewellers organises ‘Festival Show’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

One of the leading brands in Jewellery, Kashi Jewellers, which had carved a niche for itself in the field of fine craftsmanship and purity in gold jewellery and solitaire diamonds has organised a ‘Festival Show’ for its valued customers keeping in view the festivals season of Navratri, Dussehra, Karvachauth and Diwali. This special display-cum-sale festival will continue till November 4, 2021.

The Vice President of Kashi Jewellers, Shreyansh Kapoor, said in Indian culture, festivals were auspicious occasions when the people plan to purchase jewellery. He said gold and gold ornaments were something integral to Indian tradition. He said gold was considered as a symbol of luck, prosperity, abundance and auspiciousness and in fact people viewed gold as embodying Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth in it.

He said the Hindu Goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, was associated with gold and the flow of gold symbolised prosperity in a household. He said in fact this stemmed from the ancient beliefs, where Gods or divine beings considered it auspicious to give gold to their kith and kin as gifts. He said this flow of gold was likened to



Massive rush witnessed at Kashi Jewellers for Festival Show .

Pioneer

flowing water that nurtured the life of plants and animals around it, representing abundance.

He said Kashi had always been trend setters and thus even today if one was to purchase jewellery with purity and exclusivity then it was only Kashi Jewellers. He said the showroom had displayed the new variety of diamond, kundan, polki, studded jew-

ellery, platinum and silver and Kashi had left no stone unturned to ensure it provided them the best value for their money. He said another added feature was that Kashi catered to the specific needs of the clients by designing jewellery as per the demand of the customers. He said this festival will witness massive rebate on jewellery designing charges. He said ‘keeping in view the trend

of jewellery among males, Kashi had introduced platinum jewellery and a special counter had been opened for this valued clientele where specially crafted bracelets, rings, chains and bands were available. He said Kashi Jewellers was a trusted name and thus the people need to avail themselves of the best offers provided to them this festive season.

# UBI Regional Head flags off ‘Vigithon’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Regional Head, Union Bank of India, Sanjeev Kumar while flagging off the ‘Vigithon’ an awareness rally for the Vigilance Awareness Week to be held between October 26 and November 1, 2021 and said there was a greater need for combined efforts to root out corruption and for this each Indian had to join in the fight against corruption. He said corruption was an evil which was eating into the roots of the society and taking a heavy toll on Indian economy. He said people lose trust and belief in the administration due to corruption.

He said the Prime Minister had endeavoured to make India corruption free a New India by the year 2022, by promoting integrity, transparency and accountability in public life. He said corruption in daily life was linked to human greediness, an overdrive to achieve and outdo one another going beyond ones means. Thus it was the bounden duty of each person to not allow corruption to engulf and ultimately corrode the very basic ethos of human existence.

He said it was very true that no campaign to fight and eradicate corruption can be achieved without community participation. He said the Union Bank of India therefore



Union Bank of India takes out awareness rally for Vigilance Awareness Week on Thursday.

Pioneer

felt it necessary to motivate the citizens, as stakeholders in nation building, to collectively combat corruption at all level. He said this ‘Vigithon’ was an effort to raise public awareness against the threat posed by corruption and to make citizens conscious of their right to live in a corruption free society. He participants later took ‘Integrity Pledge’ to further promote the concept amongst others to ensure their commitment towards eradicating corruption. Piyush Pandey was also present on the occasion.

VC INAUGURATES CAFETERIA ON CSJMU

CAMPUS: Vice Chancellor of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur, Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak inaugurated a cafeteria on the university campus on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said with the start of the fully-renovated cafeteria, students would no longer have to go to outside vends as they would now get delicious food at lower prices on the university campus itself.

Students of the Hotel Management department will ensure maintenance of proper quality control under the supervision of head of department Dr Vivek Singh Sachan

and Dr RN Katiyar.

Prof Pathak also interacted with students and directed the canteen operator to provide free refreshment to around 100 students present there during the inaugural ceremony.

Chief Proctor Prof Sanjay Kumar Swarnkar, CDC Dr Rajesh Kumar Dwivedi, Registrar Dr Anil Kumar Yadav, Examination Controller Anjani Kumar Mishra, Chief Warden Dr RN Katiyar, Security Incharge Dr RP Singh, Dr BP Singh, Dr Pravin Bhai Patel, Dr Brijesh Katiyar and Dr Vivek Singh Sachan were present.

## Covid protocol issued for socio-cultural celebration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur police commissionerate has released a new set of guidelines to enforce Covid protocol in the city during the festive season.

As per reports, no socio-cultural celebration can be conducted in the city without prior permission. Here also, the number of attendees has been capped at 100 as opposed to the count of 50 earlier. Any organiser that invites over 100 guests will be prosecuted, the police officials said.

A meeting of senior police officials was held at Police Lines to frame and release the pandemic protocols to eliminate the chances of the anticipated ‘third wave’ of COVID-19 during festive celebrations.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner of Police Asim Arun, Additional CP (Law and Order) Akash Kulhary along with other officials to finalise the preventive guidelines.

People have been urged to steer clear from crowds and subscribe to Covid protocol during the celebrations. Strict restrictions have been imposed on all festive processions and yatras.

Traditions will not fade even if people do not participate in big gatherings or crowds, the commissioner of police stated.

Meanwhile, the district administration has also issued a toll-free helpline number for the benefit of the city dwellers. People can now dial 18001805159 to draw attention to any civic issue, related to lights, drinking water, street lamps and so on. All public complaints will be resolved via this phone line.

Prior permission has been made mandatory to organise any social, cultural and religious programme or event in the city. For this, the administration has decided to set up new help desks. Officials from all departments, namely the PWD, Kanpur Municipal Corporation, KESCo and police will be deployed at the help desk to ease the process for the public. This one-stop provision will ensure that organisers do not have to run from one department to the other to seek approval.

Besides, Municipal Commissioner Shivasharanappa GN said that time for business for all shops, vegetable and fruit vendors along with street hawkers would be announced soon. This decision would prevent overcrowding in marketplaces during the festive hours.

## KDA promotes 12 employees to clerical cadre

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority Vice Chairman Arvind Singh gave Mahanavami/Vijayadashami gift to 12 ‘Gha’ category employees by promoting them to clerical cadre on Thursday.

With this, KDA will be able to meet its requirement of the workforce in the clerical category.

Out of 49 applicants, 36 employees had taken the typing test conducted by an outside private institute on March 21. Of them, 12 were declared successful for the written examination.

Their answer books were evaluated by an associate professor of a famous college. But their interview for promotion was pending for the past several months.

With the issue coming to the knowledge of the vice chairman, Singh directed the officer concerned to immediately conduct an interview of these successful candidates on Tuesday and submit the report after which they were promoted to clerical category on Thursday.

The vice chairman asked the promoted 12 employees to discharge their duties with full devotion in the interest of the general masses.

KDA Vice Chairman Arvind Singh also extended his greetings to all the officers and employees on the occasion of Navmi/Vijayadashmi.

# More trains to run with LHB rakes

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration in place of ICF/conventional rakes will run the following trains with ultramodern LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) rakes from the point of view of safety and passenger convenience from the following dates. As a result, the coach composition of these trains will also change, CPRO PK Singh said.

**GKP-KOCHUVELI SPL:** The 02511/02512 Gorakhpur-Kochuveli-Gorakhpur special train will from Gorakhpur from October 31 and from Kochuveli from November 3 run with LHB rakes. After which according to the changed composition, a total of 21 coaches, including one of generator-cum-luggage van, two of general second class, five of sleeper class, two of AC second class, seven of AC third class, one of AC third economy class, one of pantry car, one of AC first class and one of SLRD will be attached in the train.

**GKP-SECUNDRABAD SPL:** The 02589/02590 Gorakhpur-Secunderabad-Gorakhpur special train will from Gorakhpur from November 3 and from Secunderabad from November 4 run with LHB rakes. According to the changed composition, a total of 21 coaches, including one of generator-cum-luggage van, two of general second class, five of sleeper class, two of AC second class, seven of AC third class, one of AC third economy class, one pantry car, one of AC first class and one of SLRD will be attached.

## Kasganj-Agra Fort spl from Oct 18

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

For the convenience of the passengers the railway administration will run the 05413/05414 Kasganj-Agra Fort-Kasganj and 05420/05419 Kasganj-Shikohabad-Kasganj unreserved special trains till further advice. In view of Covid-19 these special trains will be run as express (unreserved) ones so that there is no extra rush in them and for ensuring the compliance of Covid-19 prevention guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said.

**KSJ-AGRA FORT SPL:** The 05413 Kasganj (KSJ)-Agra Fort (AF) unreserved special will from October 18 leave Kasganj at 08.00 hrs, Marahra at 08.12 hrs, Aagauli at 08.23 hrs, Sikandra Rao at 08.37 hrs, Bastoi Halt at 08.47 hrs, Rati ka Nagla at 08.53 hrs, Hathras Road at 09.06 hrs, Mendu at 09.10 hrs, Hathras City at 09.20 hrs, Mursan at 09.34 hrs, Sonai at 09.43 hrs, Raya at 09.56 hrs, Mathura Cantonment at 10.14 hrs, Mathura Jn at 10.35 hrs, Bhainsa at 10.52 hrs, Parkham at 11.05 hrs, Khera Sandhan at 11.14 hrs, Achhnera at 11.35 hrs, Raibha at 11.44 hrs, Bichpuri at 11.55 hrs, Idgah Agra Jn at 12.05 hrs and will reach Agra Fort at 12.35 hrs. In the return journey 05414 Agra Fort -Kasganj unreserved special will from October 18 leave Agra Fort at 15.40 hrs, Idgah Agra Jn at 15.54 hrs, Bichpuri at 16.09 hrs, Raibha at 16.18 hrs, Achhnera at 16.30 hrs, Khera Sandhan at 16.40 hrs, Parkham at 16.49 hrs, Bhainsa at 16.52 hrs, Mathura Jn at 17.30 hrs, Mathura Cantt at 17.54 hrs, Raya at 18.07 hrs, Sonai at 18.20 hrs, Mursan at 18.29 hrs, Hathras City at 18.43 hrs, Mendu at 18.54 hrs, Hathras Road at 18.58 hrs, Rati Ka Nagla at 19.11 hrs, Bastoi Halt at 19.17 hrs, Sikandra Rao at 19.27 hrs, Aagauli at 19.38 hrs, Marahra at 19.48 hrs and reach Kasganj at 20.35 hrs. A total of 10 coaches, including eight of ordinary second class and two

**GKP-YESVANTPUR SPL:** The 02591/02592 Gorakhpur-Yesvantpur-Gorakhpur special train will from Gorakhpur from November 6 instead of October 30 and from Yesvantpur from November 8 in place of November 1 will be run with LHB rakes. After which according to the changed composition a total of 21 coaches, including one of generator-cum-luggage van, two of ordinary second class, five of sleeper class, two of AC second class, seven of AC third class, one of AC third class economy, one of pantry car, one of AC first class and one of SLRD coach will be attached.

**CHHAPRA-DURG SPL:** The 05159/05160 Chhapra-Durg-Chhapra special train from Chhapra from November 27 and from Durg from November 28 will run with LHB rakes. According to the changed composition, a total of 20 coaches, including one of generator-cum-luggage van, three of general second class, six of sleeper class, two of AC second class, six of AC third class, one of AC third class economy and one of SLRD coach will be attached.

**TEJAS EXP TO RUN FOR ADDITIONAL TRIPS:** The 82501/82502 Lucknow Jn-New Delhi-Lucknow Jn Tejas Express being run from earlier by the railway administration for four days a week i.e. Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Friday, will be run for three additional trips on November 2, 3 and 9 for the convenience of the passengers, CPRO PK Singh said.

of SLR/D will be attached.

**KSJ-SKB SPL:** The 05420 Kasganj – Shikohabad (SKB) unreserved special train will from October 18 leave Kasganj at 04.50 hrs, Badhari Kalan at 05.05 hrs, Sahawar Town at 05.16 hrs, Garkha at 05.25 hrs, Ganj Dundwara at 05.33 hrs, Patiali at 05.42 hrs, Nartihar 05.51 hrs, Daryaoganj at 05.59 hrs, Ballupur at 06.07 hrs, Rudain at 06.14 hrs, Kampil Road at 06.23 hrs, Kaimganj at 06.33 hrs, Bhatasa at 06.41 hrs, Shamsabad at 06.54 hrs, Shukrullahpur at 07.01 hrs, Harsinghpur Goba at 07.07 hrs, Farrukhabad at 07.55 hrs, Shrimad Dwarkapuri at 08.05 hrs, Ugarpur at 08.11 hrs, Nib Karori at 08.23 hrs, Baba Laxman Dasपुरi at 08.31 hrs, Pakhna at 08.38 hrs, Mota at 08.49 hrs, Takhraur at 08.58 hrs, Bhongaon at 09.07 hrs, Mainpuri Kachehri at 09.21 hrs, Mainpuri at 09.40 hrs, Tindauli at 09.56 hrs, Kosma at 10.07 hrs, Takha at 10.19 hrs, Aaro at 10.30 hrs, Burha Bharthara at 10.39 hrs and reach Shikohabad at 10.50 hrs. In the return journey, 05419 Shikohabad – Kasganj unreserved special will from October 18 leave Shikohabad at 16.20, Burha Bharthara at 16.31 hrs, Aaro at 16.41 hrs, Takha at 16.53 hrs, Kosma at 17.05 hrs, Tindauli at 17.17 hrs, From Mainpuri at 17.41 hrs, Mainpuri Kachehri at 17.50 hrs, Bhongaon at 18.05 hrs, Takhraur at 18.15 hrs, Mota at 18.25 hrs, Pakhna at 18.37 hrs, Baba Laxman Dasपुरi at 18.45 hrs, Nib Karori at 18.55 hrs, Ugarpur at 19.08 hrs, Shrimad Dwarkapuri at 19.20 hrs, Farrukhabad at 20.30 hrs, Harsinghpur Goba at 20.41 hrs, Shukrullahpur at 20.47 hrs, Shamsabad at 20.55 hrs, Bhatasa at 21.04 hrs, Kaimganj at 21.12 hrs, Kampil Road at 21.22 hrs, Rudain at 21.31 hrs, Ballupur at 21.38 hrs, Daryaoganj at 21.46 hrs, Nartihar at 21.55 hrs, Patiali at 22.03 hrs, Ganj Dundwara at 22.12 hrs, Garkha at 22.20 hrs, Sahawar Town at 22.33 hrs, Badhari Kalan at 22.45 hrs and reach Kasganj at 23.25 hrs. A total of 10 coaches will be attached.

## CEO’s directive to BLOs

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of the state held a meeting through video conferencing in view of general Assembly election-2022 and Assembly voters’ list revision-2022 which was attended by ADM(F&R) Shiv Pratap Shukla from NIC located at Collectorate on Wednesday. Under the SVEEP programme for voters’ awareness and participation, activities were discussed with nodal officers for future. The CEO directed the BLOs to ensure addition of names of all those who were completing the age of 18 on January 1, 2022. The ADM said a special drive was to be conducted on November 7, 13, 21 and 28



and various programmes were to be organised on those days to motivate the eligible youth to come forward for inclusion of their names in the voters’ list. He said help of social media was to be taken to make new voters aware. During the video conference ADM (Namami Gange) Amarendra Verma, AEO Abhishek Kumar Srivastava, DIO Dr Pankaj Kumar, and incharge of district NIC, RN Singh were also present.

**TAKES CHARGE:** Chandra Bhan Singh took over as new SDM of Sadar tehsil on Wednesday. A PCS officer of 2012 batch and a native of Chitrakoot Singh has worked in different districts and was recently posted in Pilibhit.

## ‘Sandhya aarti’ organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

At Rihand station of NTPC during the Shri Durga Puja Mahotsav being organised since October 11, ‘kalash yatra’, Mahasaptami Puja ‘sandhya aarti’ and ‘prasad’ distribution were held recently at the puja pandal with simplicity keeping Covid-19 in mind. The programme was inaugurated by the chief guest, Chief General Manager (Rihand) and Durga Puja Committee president Debabrata Paul and chairperson of Vartika Mahila Mandal (VMM) Rituparna Paul along with other co-



guests and Puja Samiti’s office-bearers by lighting the lamp. In the programme General Manager (O&M) AK Chattopadhyay, General Manager (Maintenance) AK Papanaja, General Manager (FM) M Ramesh, General Manager (TS) S Srikrishna, heads of departments, Additional General Manager (HR) SVD Ravi Kumar, office-bearers of Vartika Mahila Mandal, representatives of various unions and associations, Durga Puja Committee’s other office-bearers and members etc were present following social distancing and other guidelines.

## Mock drill conducted

PNS ■ VARANASI

In Banaras coaching depot yard on Wednesday a joint exercise of full scale mock drill was conducted by the Safety department along with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). As part of the exercise on Wednesday at 14.30 pm control room intimated that train number 05107 Up (Mela Special)’s coach number 90281, GS/NE, between Banaras-Varanasi, on OHE km 207/32-34 near the Coaching Depot had ‘derailed’ and ‘fire



played their part as per the guidelines of Accident Manual of Indian Railways and this mock drill was a complete success. In the full scale mock drill Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Ramashray Pandey, ADRM-Infra Gyanesh Tripathi, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Operations) SPS Yadav, RPF’s Dr Abhishek, CMS Mahendra Singh Nabiyal, SDO Rahul Srivastava along with NDRF’s Deputy Commandant of 11th Battalion, Abhishek Kumar Rai, Assistant Commandant Dinesh Kumar Puri and officers and employees of the Safety department made their significant contribution in the ‘relief’ and ‘rescue’ works. After the completion and review of the mock drill, DRM appreciated the ‘relief and rescue’ work of the Railways and NDRF team and said that their way of working shows alertness and awareness towards the railway service.



# States face power cuts as supply deficits rise

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in the northern region, Andhra Pradesh in the southern region, Bihar and Jharkhand in the eastern region and Gujarat in the western region are being adversely affected by the existing power crisis even as the Centre has gone all out to ensure States are not badly hit. There was no outage reported in Delhi, though, on Thursday.

According to the grid regulator, Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO), which regulates and maintains all India data of electricity demand and supply on a day to day basis, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana are the worst affected, registering considerable supply deficits. Bihar and Jharkhand too are registering supply deficits of 5.12 mega units and 4.92 mega units respectively and resorting to eight to 10 hours of power cuts these days.

Rajasthan witnessed 17.89 mega unit shortfall on October 13; Punjab 5.25 mega unit; Haryana 8.73 mega unit and Uttar Pradesh 1.92 mega unit. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh regions witnessed a supply deficit of upto 3.45 mega units. There was no outage in Delhi. On Thursday, the maximum demand was recorded 4179



mega watt in Delhi which was met by the discoms. Gujarat faced a shortfall of 3.83 mega units on October 13 and Andhra Pradesh witnessed a shortfall of 3.84 mega units.

The Ministry of Power on Thursday claimed that the coal-based capacity under outage due to coal shortage has reduced. "Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) has reported that the total capacity of units under outage due to low coal stocks has reduced from 11 GW on 12th Oct to 5 GW on 14th October," it said.

Union Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi continued his visits to different coal mines to take first-hand stock of on-ground situation. After Dipka mines in Chhattisgarh, he visited the Ashoka mines of the Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) at Piparwar in Chattra district of Jharkhand and held discussions

with officials of CCL and Eastern Coalfields Ltd (ECL) on the prevailing situation.

Increased economic activity after the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic has driven up demand for coal, leading to a supply shortage, forcing northern states such as Bihar, Rajasthan and Jharkhand to cut power for up to 14 hours a day.

According to the POSOCO, the power supply in India fell about 830 mega units short of demand during the first 13 days of October, largely due to a coal shortage, a deficit of 1.6 per cent. The October shortfall was already the biggest in absolute terms for a single month since November 2018, even with 19 days of October still left.

After meeting with the CCL and ECLs officials on Thursday, the minister said the power plants in the country will continue to receive the required amount of coal. "We are witnessing an improvement now," he said, asked about the current situation.

The minister said that closure of some mines, and inundation of a few others due to monsoon led to the crisis but there is no need to panic as the situation is improving. "We can produce two million tonnes of coal per day," he said, asserting the need for producing more coal.

# Rajnath hails Indira, says led country in times of war

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an apparent reference to her role in the 1971 war with Pakistan that led to the creation Bangladesh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday praised former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi saying she not only led the country for a number of years but also during the times of war.

A couple of days ago, Rajnath had kicked off a row by asserting that freedom fighter Savarkar filed mercy petitions to the British after being told to do so by Mahtama Gandhi, prompting certain opposition

leaders to counter him.

In an address at a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) seminar on the role of women in the armed forces, the defence minister also talked about Rani Laxmi Bai and former president Pratibha Patil, and said India has a positive experience in harnessing women's power in national development.

"There are a number of examples of women taking up arms to protect their country and the rights of the people through history. Rani Laxmi Bai is amongst the most revered and respected amongst

them," he said.

"India's former prime minister Indira Gandhi not only led the country for a number of years, she also did so during the times of war. And more recently, Pratibha Patil was the president of India and the supreme commander of the Indian armed forces," the defence minister added.

"If Saraswati is our goddess of knowledge, wisdom and learning, mother Durga remains associated with protection, strength, destruction and war," he said.

"Women have been serving with pride in the Indian

Military Nursing Service for over 100 years now. The Indian Army had commenced commissioning women officers in 1992. It has now moved to inducting women officers in most of the branches of the Army," he said.

"Women are now being accepted for permanent commission and shall be commanding Army units and battalions in the near future," he added. Singh said women will be able to join the premier tri-service pre-commissioning training institute, the National Defence Academy, from next year.

Referring to women's role in the Navy, he said from humble beginnings in the Air Traffic Control in 1993, the women officers graduated to being pilots of maritime reconnaissance aircraft in 2016 and are now being appointed onboard warships since last year.

"The Indian Coast Guard has been employing women officers in combat roles, which include pilots, observers and aviation support services. In the Indian Air Force, women are inducted in all roles, including combat and support roles," Singh said.

# Punya Srivastava appointed Additional Secretary in PMO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Punya Salila Srivastava, a 1993 batch AGMUT cadre officer, was on Thursday appointed as Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office.

She was Additional Secretary in the Union Home Ministry and was holding the charge of spokesperson of the Ministry, especially during Covid times.

Meanwhile, 1994 batch Tamil Nadu cadre officer Amuda Periyasamy, Additional Secretary, has been repatriated



from PMO to her parent cadre.

Srivastava's appointment comes a couple of days after former I&B Secretary Amit Khare was appointed as Advisor to the Prime Minister.

# Health Minister Mandaviya visits Manmohan Singh at AIIMS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday met former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, admitted to the AIIMS here after complaining of weakness following a fever, and enquired about his health even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished his predecessor a speedy recovery. "I pray for the good health and speedy recovery of Dr Manmohan Singh Ji," PM Modi tweeted.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi also visited AIIMS to enquire about the health of the former PM and wished him a speedy recovery. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also prayed for his speedy recovery.

Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, former Union minister Ashwani Kumar, Congress leader Mukul Wasnik and Shiv Sena leader and Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi also wished Singh a speedy recovery. Among others, former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh, Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi and NCP's Nawab Malik also prayed for the ex-prime minister's good health.

Singh was Wednesday admitted to the AIIMS owing to weakness and exhaustion. The senior Congress leader, who turned 89 last month, had been undergoing treatment for fever at home for the last couple of days.

# Rajnath conducts final breakthrough blast of Sela tunnel in AP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday virtually conducted the final breakthrough blast of the Sela tunnel — the world's largest bi-lane tunnel at an altitude of more than 13,000 feet — in Arunachal Pradesh and flagged of a 20,000-km-long motorcycle expedition of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). The virtual breakthrough blast and the flagging-off were conducted by the Minister at the National War Memorial here.

The tunnel will not only strengthen national security, but also augment the transportation facilities for the local people and consequently, boost their socio-

economic conditions, he said.

"This tunnel, which has been made with state-of-the-art features, will prove to be the life-line for not just Tawang, but the entire state of Arunachal Pradesh," Singh said.

The tunnel goes through Sela Pass and is expected to cut down the distance to the China border through Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh by 10 km. The construction work of the tunnel is expected to be over by June 2022.

"The breakthrough blast of the Sela main tunnel shows your (BRO's) hard work and your commitment towards the country's security and socio-economic development," the defence minister said.

# Modi to inaugurate 7 Defence firms carved out of OFB today

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver a video address at an event organised by the Defence Ministry to dedicate seven new defence companies, carved out of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board, to the nation on the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami on Friday, the PMO said on Thursday.

PNS

He also flagged off a motorcycle expedition of the BRO.

Singh said 75 personnel of the BRO and the Army will participate in the motorcycle expedition that will cover a distance of 20,000 km passing through many states and Union territories.

The Sela tunnel would cut

down the travel time between the Army's 4 Corps headquarters at Tezpur in Assam and Tawang by at least an hour. Moreover, it would ensure that National Highway 13, especially the 171-km stretch between Bomdila and Tawang, remains accessible in all weather conditions.



Event Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presides over breakthrough blast of Sela Main Tunnel via video conferencing, at an event organised by BRO India, in New Delhi, Thursday. Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar are also seen

PTI

# CBSE to hold term-1 Class 10, 12 exams offline in Nov-Dec; date sheet on Oct 18

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The first-term board examinations for Classes 10 and 12 will be conducted offline in November-December and the date-sheet for the same will be announced on October 18, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said on Thursday.

The board said the exams will be objective-type and the duration of the tests will be 90 minutes. The exams will start from 11.30 am instead of 10.30 am, keeping in view the winter season. Bifurcating the academic session, holding two term-end exams and rationalising the

syllabus were part of the special assessment scheme for Classes 10 and 12 board exams in 2021-22 announced by the CBSE in July in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After the conduct of the term-1 exams, the results in the form of marks scored will be declared. No student will be placed in the pass, compartment and essential repeat categories after the first term. The final results will be announced after the first and the second-term examination," CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said.

"Practical exams or internal assessment will be completed in

schools before the first-term exams are over. The marks allotted will be 50 per cent of the total marks and mentioned in the syllabus. The schools will be informed separately about the full scheme so that they can make the necessary preparations," he added.



Bhardwaj further said the second-term examination would be conducted in March-April, 2022 and whether it will be objective or subjective-type will depend on the Covid situation in the country.

# Actor Norah Fatehi appears before ED in money laundering case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Actor Norah Fatehi on Thursday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here for recording her statement in connection with a money laundering case worth over Rs 200 crore against alleged conman Sukesh Chandrasekar.

Fatehi, 29, appeared before the investigating officer of the case at the ED's office here.

Her statement is being recorded under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a money laundering case filed against Chandrasekar and his actor wife Leena Maria Paul, sources said.

The ED had earlier questioned actor Jacqueline

Fernandes in this case. She is expected to depose again before the agency.

Both the actors are understood to be cooperating with the agency in taking the money laundering probe forward as they themselves had been allegedly conned in the racket run by Chandrasekar and his wife.

Chandrasekar and his wife were recently arrested by the ED following an order from the PMLA court while they were already lodged in jail after they were arrested by the Delhi Police on charges of cheating some people including some high-profile individuals including former Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh's wife Aditi Singh.

In August, the ED had searched some of

Chandrasekar's premises and seized a sea-facing bungalow in Chennai, Rs 82.5 lakh cash and over a dozen luxurious cars.

The agency had claimed in a statement that Chandrasekar is a "known conman" and is being probed by the Delhi Police in a case of alleged criminal conspiracy, cheating and extortion to the tune of about Rs 200 crore.

"Chandrasekar is the mastermind of this fraud. He has been part of the crime world since the age of 17. He has multiple FIRs against him and is presently lodged in Rohini jail (in connection with the Delhi Police case)," the ED had said.

Despite being in the jail, it said, Chandrasekar "did not stop conning" people, the ED said.

# India reports surge of 18,987 new Covid cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With restrictions easing during the festive season, India's Covid-19 cases and deaths are again surging. As per the Union Health Ministry's data, India on Thursday registered 3000 cases more than what it did on Wednesday.

In the last 24 hours, it added 18,987 cases and 246 deaths while it was 15,823 infections and 226 deaths on

Wednesday, when the country saw the lowest daily rise in Covid cases since early March.

The Ministry has been consistently warning the people not to let their guard down as virus can take ugly shape in view of easing of restrictions in crowded places amidst celebration of festivities.

The active Covid cases in India comprise 0.61 per cent of the total infections, the lowest since March 2020 -- the active

caseload at present is 2,07,653, lowest in 214 days, said the Ministry in a statement.

India's total Covid infection tally has reached 3,40,01,743 while the death count has increased to 4,51,189. A total of 13,25,399 tests were conducted, taking the number of cumulative tests conducted so far to 58,63,63,442.

The national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.06 per cent, highest since March 2020. At least 22,844 recoveries in the last 24 hours took the total number of recoveries to 3,33,42,901 in India.

The daily positivity rate - number of positive cases identified per 100 - stands at 1.19 per cent, less than 3 per cent for last 44 days. The weekly positivity rate stands at 1.46 per cent in India. A total of 13,01,083 tests were conducted on Wednesday, taking the number of cumulative tests conducted so far for detection of Covid-19 in the country to 58,76,64,525.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The employment and earning generating "Hunar Haats" for artisans and craftsmen may soon be linked with the popular marketing websites like Amazon and flipkart and will also be increasingly focussing on the artisans belonging to socially backward Muslims.

Continuing improvisation in the "Hunar Haats", the Union Ministry for minority affairs will be setting "Vishwakarma Vatika" in the Haats across the country to promote traditional skills of artisans and craftsmen where they will also be displaying live how India's traditional and indigenous handmade products are made.

Database of artisans is being prepared from across the country to rope-in them from the lowest-rung to the

Haats.

According to the ministry, backward castes among Muslim artisans would be given space in "Vishwakarma Vatika" to showcase their products and sell them directly or through Government e Marketing ((GeM).

Sections of Muslim community such as Kahar, Kewat-Mallah, Kumhar, Kunjda, Gujar, Gaddi-Ghosi, Qureshi, Jogi, Mali, Teli, Darji, Nut, Banjara, Badhyi, Chudidar, Momin-Julaha, Mansuri, Dhuniya, Rangrej, Lohar, Halwayi, Hajjam, Dhobi, Bhishti, Mochi, Raj-Mistri etc will benefit by this improvisations of Haats, said the Ministry.

According to sources, government is in talks with the marketing sites like Amazon and flipcart to sell products of the artisans.

Talking to media persons here, Union Minister for

Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said here that the first of "Vishwakarma Vatika", in "Hunar Haat" will come up at Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, which will be inaugurated by Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan on 16th October.

Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal would also be present on the

occasion.

Proficient craftsmen, sculptors, stonemasons, blacksmiths, carpenters, potter and other artisans from across the country, will give live demo of hundreds of India's traditional art and craft at one place in these "Vishwakarma Vatika", Naqvi said.

The minister said that about 700 artisans and craftsmen from more than 30 States and UTs including Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi,

Nagaland, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Goa, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu-Kashmir, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have brought their indigenous products made with wood, brass, bamboo, glass, cloth, paper, clay etc at "Hunar Haat", being organised at Rampur.

Naqvi said that besides "Vocal for Local", the upcoming "Hunar Haats" will also be based on the theme of "Best from Waste". Exquisite products made from used and discarded items in households such as Plastic, paper, ply, wood, glass, ceramic, jute, cotton, wool as well as banana stems, sugarcane pulp, paddy and wheat straw-stems, husk, Tur, rubber, iron, brass, etc will be available in "Hunar Haat" for sale and display.





## Burning sensation

Innovative ways to deal with stubble burning instead of cash incentives are needed

It is the second week of October and the annual problem of stubble burning has resurfaced around Delhi. The Central Pollution Control Board says the air quality in Delhi has already reduced over the last week. The air quality index (AQI) on October 13 was 171. It falls under the 'moderate' category of 101-200 AQI. The index has jumped from the 'satisfactory' since the last week of September and crossed three digits to 125 on October 7. Between now and the end of November every year, Punjab, Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh record a high number of stubble burnings. This year, however, the burning is delayed; NASA images show a lesser number of fires in Punjab and Haryana. In Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar of UP, however, instances of stubble burning are increasing. The response of the UP administration is simply to lodge an FIR against persons involved in the crop residue burning and impose fines ranging from ₹2,500 to ₹15,000. That hardly deters the farmers who feel their losses will be more if they don't burn the stubble and get the field ready for the next crop in the small window available for doing so. The solution lies not in punitive measures and ordinances and laws but in innovation. Certain steps that Delhi, Punjab and Haryana are taking this year may show the way.



The crux of the problem is that around 20 million tonnes of paddy straw was generated in the monsoon harvest. There is a 55-day window to clear it for the winter wheat crop. The straw cannot be used

as fodder and burning it is the easiest and cheapest method. However, that badly pollutes the air, in and around Delhi. Governments have introduced effective machines to remove the stubble but the farmers find them expensive. Innovation has now come into the picture. The Delhi Government has started using the Pusa Decomposer this month. Developed by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), it is a low-cost microbial bio-enzyme that decomposes crop residues, including stubble. Thousands of farmers in Punjab and Haryana have registered with a firm to use the decomposer. A Bengaluru-based start-up has tied up with the IARI to simplify the use of the decomposer. It provides the mixture in capsule form that can be transformed into a ready-to-use powder that can be mixed with water and sprayed instantly. There are other experiments that States are undertaking. Farmers are being persuaded to diversify into Basmati paddy that can be used as fodder. Scientists are exploring microbial solutions that can dissolve the stubble and convert it into soil nutrients. Trials are underway to generate bio-CNG and bioethanol from the stubble. Paper and sugar mills are being incentivised to install boilers that use stubble as fuel. It is time the innovation leads the anti-stubble war instead of impractical solutions like giving farmers a cash incentive of ₹100 per quintal for not burning stubble.

### PICTALK



Street vendors sell effigies by the roadside ahead of Dussehra, in Delhi

Ranjan Dimri | The Pioneer

## Not there yet

The TMC has brighter prospects after winning West Bengal, but Delhi is still far away

In July, when after her resounding success in Bengal elections Mamata Banerjee told the media in Delhi that she was a mere cog in the anti-BJP wheel even a nitwit knew she was testing waters. Three months later, the Trinamool Congress mouthpiece *Jago Bangla* projected her as the woman behind the Opposition wheel who could take down Narendra Modi in 2024 general elections — dismissing Rahul Gandhi's claim to it all.



But can she do in Delhi what she did in Kolkata? The TMC has no doubts that with the help of team PK — read Prashant Kishor — she will succeed where Jyoti Basu and Pranab Mukherjee failed. No doubt the TMC think tank is walking on a presumptive trajectory. According to them, in the absence of Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Banerjee has emerged as the undisputed leader of Bengal with 42 parliamentary seats. Bengal is the third largest State after Uttar Pradesh (80) and Maharashtra (48) in terms of the MPs. The TMC is convinced that her thumping success in Bengal and Rahul Gandhi's repetitive failure elsewhere to jack up

a decomposing Congress keeps her ahead of the grand old outfit.

However, the proverbial 'pros' notwithstanding, the bacterial 'cons' may erode Didi's prospects because winning Bengal and grabbing Delhi are different ball games. First of all, she has to offer a viable Bengal Model for PM Modi's Gujarat Model. Industry is her Achilles Heels. Despite her having 'convened' yearly global business summits with huge fanfare, the resultant investment is in the vicinity of a regulation zero. Back from one such summit meeting in Kolkata, a mighty big industry captain from Gujarat privately told his board of directors that investing in Bengal was equivalent to putting necks on railway tracks. Didi must be running her ploys in Singur and Nandigram that brought her to power but that remain the cause of her biggest woes as a Chief Minister. Secondly, though Banerjee has blasted Modi for selling out national assets and cutting down Government jobs, her own Government is responsible for eating up more than 5.5 lakh posts. Unlike Jyoti Basu, who commanded respect by his politics, trustworthiness, untainted image and age, the contemporary heartland politicians with their own ambitions and personal ego may not accept Mamata's suzerainty. Hence Delhi is very much visible from Kolkata but it is still far away. *Dilli abhi door hai, Didi!*

# Beijing not really the bigger fish

The aggressive behaviour of China has antagonised many countries. North Korea and Pakistan apart, it is difficult to think of a Chinese ally



PRAFULL GORADIA

It is true that Xi Jinping's China is by now sufficiently worked up, for whatever reasons. It also is increasingly apparent that China has to be stopped in its tracks, if the world is not to plunge into a devastating war. Had Europe, Britain and France in particular, done likewise in 1936, WWII would have probably been averted. Notwithstanding Germany being bound by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, forced to downsize its military and remain peaceful, its Fuhrer Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to seize the demilitarised Rhineland — formerly German territory — in 1936, in complete violation of the Treaty. No European power did or even said anything. Germany's generals, who were then reluctant to precipitate another armed conflict, began having faith in their Fuhrer's supposed strategic calibre.

In 1938, just two years after Rhineland, Britain's Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and France's PM Edouard Daladier promptly accepted Hitler's invitation to a conference in Munich to settle the Sudetenland issue. This Czechoslovakian province was substantially German-speaking. The Fuhrer wanted it for the greater glory of his fatherland. The visiting leaders promptly conceded this demand without so much as even consulting the Czechoslovaks. Chamberlain publicly eulogised the success of this conference as having achieved "peace in our time". This conclusively convinced the Germans that their Fuhrer knew what he was doing.

The inevitable happened thereafter. Austria was the next to be gobbled, as part of greater Germany, without a shot. In September next year, Poland was overrun in less than six weeks, with France capitulating in a similar duration in 1940. Had the French and British resisted Nazi Germany, which was militarily less prepared in 1936, Hitler would possibly have lost power or stayed away from such military adventures.

China is much better prepared, economically and militarily. It has progressed leaps and bounds, particularly after Deng

Xiao Ping. But how far would it have gone had the American gates for its goods not opened up? China's goods are not products of its own technology, but the result of very diligent copying, politely called 'reverse engineering'. The cheap cost of Chinese goods can be attributed to virtually free grants of land and throwaway interest rates for term loans to local entrepreneurs and of course, low wages to its workers, at least in the early phase of China's meteoric rise.

This is in contrast to Japan's manufactures — automobiles, electronic goods, computers, watches, et al. These are not only original but also largely unsurpassed by other countries. Militarily too, unlike Japan, China does not have a sufficient tradition. Strangely, the People's Liberation Army (PLA; China's armed forces) belongs to the Communist Party of China and not to the country. Moreover, China's armed forces are not made up of volunteers but mostly conscripts. It is one thing for anyone to be prepared to give his life for his country; it is difficult to fight with the same spirit for a political party, which can rise and fall, like the Congress in India, for instance. Else, there can be factional



STRANGELY, THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY BELONGS TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA AND NOT TO THE COUNTRY. AS A SOLDIER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO FIGHT WITH THE SAME SPIRIT FOR A POLITICAL PARTY

feuds too within a party, which partly explains a vast number of Chinese soldiers losing their lives in most skirmishes and small battles they have been involved in, over the last few decades. Also, more crucially, the Chinese armed forces have not been involved in fighting since 1979 when they invaded Vietnam, a war where the yellow giant took a beating.

Battle experience is more important than training, in order to be a soldier. A battle hardened soldier is far more dependable than a well-trained recruit. Anyone who has not faced bullets is unpredictable in a combat situation, as to how he would react when the shooting begins. Today's PLA may not have a single soldier who has faced actual combat.

In the meantime, the aggressive behaviour displayed by China's political leadership has antagonised many countries. North Korea and Pakistan apart, it is difficult to think of a Chinese ally. While North Korea's army is large and marches excellently in military parades, it has not felt a bullet since 1953, which is 68 years hence. In contrast, the Indian army was originally founded by the British, who were amongst the best trained armed forces

other than the German ones. The country has fought five wars, as well as continual insurgencies in eastern India and Kashmir.

China is presumably militarily as mighty as most people worry. Taiwan is a major issue with the current leadership in Beijing. The South China Sea is another flash-point. The Himalayas in India's north are potentially the third one. There are Japan and Taiwan, which for their size have excellent air forces. There is Australia further south. All that is necessary is for the USA to open its treasury of advanced weaponry. The rest of the allies are strong enough to halt the yellow giant from going any farther, if not actually force it to take a few steps back in its aggressiveness.

This is also imperative because China's much-hyped rise has already happened. In other words, China is no longer rising but has risen. The window of opportunity to grab global hegemony is closing. And that makes the situation as dangerous as it was in 1914.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former Member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FIGHTING THE TINY-MIGHTY DEMON

Sir — As the matter stands, we are making a pertinent move to get rid of the COVID-19 pandemic as the number of deaths and the number of cases are reducing day by day. We are taking resolute actions to reduce the caseload and the people's cooperation is needed in this direction. As the COVID-19 hangs over the Dussehra celebrations, we must not fall prey to the eyeing 'rakshasa' in the form of the virus. Celebrations are a necessary part of social living as they spread an ethos of joy and togetherness. However, reckless celebrations can lead to consequences that we would not want.

We are all waiting for the D-Day with baited breath when the nation will announce the clearance of the outbreak. The Genie will be out of the bottle and Coronavirus will take its place. Once bottled, it will be thrown deep into the sea never to be found again. Until then, we must celebrate the triumph of good over evil in a safe and planned way.

Jayanthi Subramaniam | Coimbatore

### A BLAST FROM THE ARCHIVES

Sir — Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's claim that Vinayak Damodar Savarkar submitted mercy petitions to the British at Mahatma Gandhi's behest is not corroborated by historical facts. It was a vain attempt at whitewashing Savarkar's reputation as part of the project to rewrite history to present Hindu Right's past in a good light. Rajnath Singh's claim was a distortion of facts; it is demolished by the fact that the mercy petitions submitted by Savarkar in 1911 and 1913 preceded Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa and his joining the freedom movement in 1915. The mercy petitions predated Mahatma Gandhi's article.

The words in his petitions were not worthy of being called a freedom fighter. He pledged loyalty to the British crown and appealed to its 'manifold beneficence' to secure his release from the Andaman Cellular Jail. It cannot be helped if the Hindutva brigade suffers from a sense of inferiority due to its non-participation in

## A humble man with wisdom



The nation celebrates the birth anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India who was famously known as the 'Missile Man of India, on Oct 15. To acknowledge the efforts of Dr Kalam and the stupendous role he played as a teacher throughout his scientific and political careers, the day is celebrated as 'World Students' Day'. He was a great scientist, a writer, an impeccable teacher, and a man of exceptional qualities. He described educa-

tion as the means of progress and believed that education alone can remove poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition from our life. He always believed that a strong society can be built only when the students are made proficient in their subjects.

Dr. Kalam, who won the highest civilian award the Bharat Ratna, considered himself a teacher and felt very pleased when he addressed students. He emphasised that students should have an aim in life, grasp knowledge from everywhere, work hard towards their goal and never accept defeat. Dr Kalam's strong commitment to education made him excel in his academics and multifaceted career. He always inspired the youth of the country to think and do new things. His ideas will keep inspiring the youth for generations to come. He will always be remembered as an eminent scientist, an incredible teacher, and a great man who inspired millions through his philosophy of simple living and high thinking.

Krishna K Vepakomma | Hyderabad

the freedom struggle and worse, its collaboration with the British colonials in India. At this rate, the BJP may soon project and celebrate Savarkar as India's foremost freedom fighter, relegating the true freedom fighters who refused to cower before the might of the British Empire.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

### AN IRRITATING NEIGHBOUR

Sir — Outlandishly, India's contiguous neighbour China's expansionist shenanigans are far from over with as many as 13 rounds of military talks between the two sides coming to naught. Ironically, China comes to the table every time with new conditions for de-escalation on Ladakh borders. As if this was not enough, Beijing, in a bid to dishearten Indian delegations for the confabulations on Sunday, has also taken an irrational exception to a visit by India's Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu to Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday.

In a reaction, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi has also read the Chinese side the Riot Act, asserting that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India and, hence, Indian leaders keep visiting the State at will or when an occasion demands. He further reminded that the unilateral attempts by the Chinese side to alter the status quo on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western side of India-China border against the bilateral agreements, are responsible for the ongoing imbroglio. Ironically, in a 'pot calling the kettle black' scenario, the Western Command of China's People's Liberation Army's (PLA) has blamed that India insisted on 'unreasonable and unrealistic demands to add difficulties to the negotiations'.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

We will win Goa in 2022 and Delhi in 2024. Go forward with courage and confidence that victory is ours.



Congress leader — P Chidambaram

With every passing day and Iran's refusal to engage in good faith, the runaway gets short.

US Secretary of State — Antony Blinken

I gravitate towards stories that trigger conversations. Even as an entertainer, I want my work to get people thinking.



Actor — Rajkumar Rao

Should've been a lot easier after the start we got...Dew came in and all, but we're in the final and we're delighted.

KKR captain — Eoin Morgan

The State Government is in constant touch with the Centre to increase the supply of coal so that power generation can run smoothly.



Rajasthan Chief Minister — Ashok Gehlot



FIRST COLUMN

PLI SCHEMES: NOT A LONG-TERM ANSWER

Straightening out our manufacturing inefficiencies is the key to boost growth



HIMA BINDU KOTA

The COVID-19 pandemic has created awareness of the vulnerabilities of supply chains and shortage in essential products not only in India but worldwide. This has led to renewed sense of economic nationalism with Governments pushing domestic companies to produce and employ more. The Union Government's latest ₹26,058 crore package to boost production of automobiles, auto parts and drones is part of the strategy to make India a manufacturing hub. Known as Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, this an element of the much larger Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative to make India self-reliant in key products across sectors that are critical and important for India's future growth, by reducing its dependency on imports and developing globally as an export hub. Particularly designed to improve manufacturing capacities in both sunrise and strategic sectors, this scheme aims to reduce import bills, enhance cost competitiveness, and generate employment across skill categories. By achieving these objectives, India wants to expand



the contribution of its manufacturing sector to the GDP, from 17 percent to 25 percent. The scheme also intends to encourage foreign investors who may want to inject capital into or establish business relationships with companies that have access to PLI incentives. As many as 13 sectors have been identified as intended beneficiaries of the PLI scheme. Taking the example of mobile manufacturing and electronic components industry, a total of 16 applications worth ₹35,541 crore have been approved so far. Five of them were from the global champions category, another five companies were from the domestic champions category and the remaining six companies were from the electronic components category. These companies together invested approximately ₹1,300 crores under this scheme in the first six months of operation inspite of tough times prevailing at the time, and added upto 22,000 jobs. This, in a way, fulfils the very reason for which the scheme was conceived.

Samsung, Foxconn, Hon Hai, Rising Star, Wistron and Pegatron are some of the global electronics giants who have started their operations under the scheme. As contract manufacturers for Apple iPhones, their presence will enhance the manufacturing base in India immensely. There are high expectations from domestic companies alike. After getting approval under PLI scheme, it is anticipated that Indian companies shall expand significantly by increasing their manufacturing operations and gain recognition as national champion companies in mobile phone production. There is an expectation that there would be high demand for mobile phones in future. This is evident from the latest mobile export figures of ₹4,600 crore for the quarter ending April-June 2021. This was a growth of 250 per cent over the previous period. The imports also nose-dived by 80 percent to ₹600 crore from ₹3,200 crore. These figures would jump immensely when Pegatron commences production this year. In this context, the PLI scheme is anticipated to head to a production of approximately ₹10.5 lakh crore with over 60 per cent of this to be exported. This scheme was extended from FY 2025 to FY 2026 at the request of the industry and allows applicants to pick FY 2022 as the base year. With the additional investment of ₹11,000 crore, over the next five years, direct employment would increase by two lakh and indirect employment by three times. Overall, the PLI Scheme bodes well for the mobile phone industry. However, the same cannot be said about other industries like solar manufacturing. These schemes are at best short-term in nature and cannot be regarded as replacement for straightening out manufacturing inefficiencies and business complexity. Both the industry and the Government should work together during this time period to develop competitiveness and quality.

(The writer is Associate Professor at Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal.)

# India towards the space and beyond

Opening space programmes to private players is a breakthrough act and the world is watching keenly to see how feasible it will be to set up shop here



ANIL PRAKASH

With the Government of India opening up 'Space', the private sector is all set for their time under the sun. For over five decades, ISRO has been the mainstay for all space related activities under the Department of Space (DOS) which is directly overseen by the Prime Minister. It has to its credit various successful missions from being the world first space agency to find water on the moon to having the world's largest constellation of remote-sensing satellites and two satellite navigation systems namely, GAGAN and NAVIC.

Currently the Indian Space industry accounts for a mere \$7 billion in the rising \$360-billion global space market. Despite its huge and undisputed achievements, ISRO, by its own admission, has been falling short in meeting the ever-increasing demands for space-based applications and services within India. Almost every sector starting from agriculture, fishing, transport, weather department, oil and gas, and urban development are dependent on space and satellite technologies for their businesses.

The move to open India's space programmes to private players is a breakthrough act and the world is watching keenly to see how feasible it will be for them to come in with their facilities and services and set up shop here. The private industry, which was unable to compete due to their limited roles earlier, can now participate in the entire gamut of space activities not just as a vendor but as partners. ISRO infrastructure, scientific and technical resources, and even data for space programmes are accessible to the private industry. The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) is set to act as a facilitator and a regulator; it will be an interface between ISRO and private players to facilitate the best use of resources.

The space start-up segment in India looks vibrant and is doing extraordinary work in upstream, in-orbit and downstream segments. A multitude of private players and young start-ups encouraged with new age investors having a better risk appetite and patience for projects with long gestation period, are setting up ventures from launch facilities, satellite thrusters, mm Wave and optical communication Links, Satellite manufacturing, earth observation applications, Space Situational Awareness (SSA), Collision detection, Debris mitigation and de-orbiting et cetera.

The entry of large organisations has enabled start-ups and MSMEs to play a critical role in the value chain. Currently, there are around 500 firms directly and indirectly engaged with space technologies and a score of start-ups are engaged with the Government.

As a nation India has immense entrepreneurial spirit which has never been more pronounced than the recent difficult times of pandemic and with youngest sets of founders creating disruptive technology and business models in the field of



THE ENTRY OF LARGE ORGANISATIONS HAS ENABLED THE STARTUPS TO PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN THE VALUE CHAIN. CURRENTLY, THERE ARE AROUND 500 FIRMS DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY ENGAGED WITH SPACE TECHNOLOGIES AND A SCORE OF STARTUPS ARE ENGAGED WITH THE GOVERNMENT

(The writer is Director General, Satcom Industry Association. The views expressed are personal.)



micro-satellites, advanced rocket propulsion, launch vehicles, AI, Robotics, deep intelligence, etc., this segment is ready to find its wings given the right conditions. However, despite having 60 years of experience and expertise in space missions and satellite communications, India lacks on many fronts.

The start-ups lack resources and technology to handle independent space programmes. And even though the private sector firms can now use ISRO's infrastructure and resources, there is no clarity on the processes involved, the time frame for the sanctions and permissions etc. An easier facilitation center to deal and help the Start-ups in a time bound manner will go a long way in helping in this.

Lack of enabling policies makes the start-ups move to other geographies to set shop -- regulatory and financial barriers create uncertainty for young businesses which is detrimental in this large-investment and slow ROI segment. These barriers force the young entrepreneurs to look for environment that offers easier prospects.

Access to satellite spectrum is a basic issue across the industry and is a critical to the success of this segment. Presently there is no clarity on the availability of satcom spectrum. Without policy level certainty on spectrum allocation the young start-ups will find it very difficult to conduct routine telemetry, telecommand and payload data operations.

There are three distinct authorisations/licenses that are required, viz., GMPCS, VSAT, INSAT MSS and the license categories under the Universal Licensing do not offer any clarity for satellite services for the business in the upstream and

downstream sectors. It is time for India to consider start-up-friendly licensing regime like the short-term experimental licensing by ISRO for their tie ups with the Universities for their Satellite Missions.

The Department of Space's current combined role as licensor, market regulator and satellite operator, is causing a conflict of interest with private satellite builders and satcom service providers. Further there is DOT, DOS, WPC, INSPACE, and NSIL creating multiple layers permissions and asks, hampering the ease of doing business scenario for the sector. A clear delineation of functions is necessary for the commercial units to not seek places elsewhere to start their entity.

The new rules allow foreign companies to set-up facilities in India and enables 100 per cent FDI in the space sector which is a positive move and could give rise to several joint ventures. This paves the way for collaborative development of satellites, huge investment, job creation leading to enhanced GDP growth.

Currently, too many layers of taxes at various levels including GST, revenue share, multiple DOT, DOS charges and withholding tax, etc., has led to almost one third of the entrepreneurs actively looking at relocating out of India to reduce compliance and tax burdens. Countries like Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia offer a far more structured and rationalised tax structure than India and it makes more business sense for the entrepreneurs to shift base there.

There are several accelerator programmes run by the Government to promote the start-up ecosystem. India is the third largest start-up ecosystem in the

world after the US and China and this is one more chance for the segment to grab their chance at succeeding.

There are challenges ahead, there is no doubt. India has 140 incubators and accelerators compared to China and the US which have over 2,400 and 1,500 incubators and accelerators, respectively. There is an urgent need to simplify regulation around registrations, bankruptcy laws, grants, investments etc to get entrepreneurs back into the system.

ISRO and the Government have a crucial role to play in resolving the policy gaps and loopholes by assuring the start-ups and private sector of a lucrative market for their products and services. A large-scale market opportunity awaits the private players in the upstream sector to engage in the manufacturing design and development of high-tech spacecrafts and in proliferation of the satcom applications in downstream sector. Regulators and relevant authorities need to work closely with emerging start-ups to bring about much needed reforms and incentives that allow industry to operate locally for the country to benefit from their success.

Space is a global phenomenon and India must not allow itself to miss the opportunity to be at the top of this frontier. Policies must be harmonised with the global best practices. Developments and standards need to be on par with the rest of the world.

The industry has the wherewithal to grow and contribute significantly both in terms of technological development and GDP growth, thus becoming a true partner to the Government on India's journey towards space and beyond.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

I HAVE URGED THE HON'BLE L-G TO ALLOW CHHATH PUJA IN DELHI AS CORONA IS UNDER CONTROL NOW.  
—DELHI CHIEF MINISTER  
ARVIND KEJRIWAL



STUBBORNNESS YIELDED TO FAITH. DID YOU NOT KNOW IT WHILE PUTTING A BAN ON CHHATH PUJA, MR CHIEF MINISTER?  
—BJP LEADER  
MANOJ TIWARI

# Climate negotiations need an innovative approach

Over the past several decades, key indicators of the climate system are changing at rates unprecedented in at least the last 2,000 years

The climate change negotiations are held periodically under the banner of United Nations Forum for Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) among participating countries through Conferences of Parties (CoP). The next CoP is the 26th and scheduled to be held in Glasgow in November. Former British Cabinet Minister Alok Sharma, chairperson for CoP 26, has exhorted the countries to agree for ambitious emission reduction targets that will lead to net zero emission by 2050. He had red-flagged the sixth report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report published in 2021. World leaders will arrive in Glasgow like a jamboree and with several thousand negotiators, Government and business



VK BAHUGUNA

(The writer is Chairman, Centre for Resource Management and Environment. The views expressed are personal.)

representatives in tow for twelve days of talks.

One of the important features of this year's CoP will be taking stock of the Nationally Determined Contributions of the countries they were asked to bring after five years since the Paris agreement. One of the issues will be to see how the countries are going to fare in controlling the rise in atmospheric temperature to 1.5 degree Celsius. The participants in CoP 26 will have to agree to step-up phasing out coal, curtail deforestation, speed up the switch to electric vehicles and encourage investment in renewables. Apart from mobilising finances for climate change adaptations, it will be necessary to build warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture



to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives.

The sixth report of IPCC indicates longer term changes in the Earth's climate. The report clearly proves that during 2015 to 2021 each subsequent year has been hotter than the previous one and 2021 is proving to be the sixth hottest year ever recorded. The report states that global warming has constantly increased during the previous four decades compared to the 80 years before. The report vividly describes the human activities responsible for this

rise in temperature and consequent climatic vagaries being noticed every year with increasing intensity resulting in acute hardship to the poor and disadvantaged sections of the world population.

It would be interesting to quote the sixth assessment report of the IPCC for larger public demonstration and stern warning to the policy makers. It says: "Observed changes in the atmosphere, oceans, cryosphere and biosphere provide unequivocal evidence of a world that has warmed. Over the past several decades, key indicators of the climate system are increasingly at levels unseen in centuries to millennia, and are changing at rates unprecedented in at least the last 2,000 years."

Specifically, global mean surface temperature has increased by 1.09 C between the pre-industrial baseline period 1850-1900 and the most recent decade of 2011-20. This was more likely than not the warmest in roughly 125,000 years. Similarly, the rainfall pattern will change to extremities in volume and intensity resulting in excessive rainfall within few days and then prolong draughts in all over the world. As for sea ice, between the decades of 1979-88 and 2010-19, the average monthly August-October Arctic sea ice area shrunk by around one quarter with a loss of around two million square kilometres of ice.

In a nutshell, this assessment of IPCC is a grim reminder for the world lead-

ers to have a time-bound action plan for the next five to 10 years to achieve the targets set by the Paris agreement for 2030. In this regard, the United States after returning to the negotiating table, must shoulder the responsibility to lead the developed world.

The negotiators must draw lessons from 'Carbix' a company co-founded by an Indian, Vinit Dighe, and J. Sammy in Quincy, Massachusetts, USA. They develop reactors to harness carbon dioxide from emission streams generated by waste to energy plants, geo-thermal plants, water desalination and natural gas plants. They target cement manufacturing which alone contribute to eight percent carbon emission. They use the emissions

to produce minerals like calcium carbonate and limestone while at the same time remaining carbon negative.

It is like catching the emissions and converting them into valuable minerals. There is a huge scope for a permanent carbon sequestration market. It would be appropriate if Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav invites the Indian innovator who is breaking new ground on climate change mitigation to have a tie-up with Indian industries to produce minerals out of emissions. India could then be a world leader not only in climate change innovation but also effectively control pollutants and use pollution as a raw material for mineral production.



# Petrol, diesel prices hiked again; touch record levels

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices rose again on Thursday after a two-day break, taking its retail rates to record high levels across the country. Accordingly, in the national capital, petrol and diesel prices increased by 35 paise per litre to ₹ 104.79 per litre and ₹ 93.53 per litre respectively.

In India's financial capital, Mumbai, petrol became costlier by 34 paise per litre to ₹110.75 a litre on Thursday, the highest across all the four metro cities. Diesel also costs Rs 101.40 for one litre in Mumbai.

The price increase on

Thursday has come after fuel prices remained static for the past couple of days.

Diesel prices have now increased 16 out of the last 20 days taking up its retail price by Rs 4.90 per litre in Delhi. The price of diesel has increased between 20-30 paise per litre so far, but, since Wednesday last week it has been increasing by 35 paise per litre. With diesel prices rising sharply, the fuel is now available at over Rs 100 a litre in several parts of the country. This dubious distinction was earlier available to petrol that had crossed Rs 100 a litre-mark across the country a few months

earlier. Petrol prices had maintained stability since September 5 but oil companies finally raised the pump prices last week and this week given a spurt in the product prices lately. Petrol prices have also risen on 13 of the previous 16 days taking up the pump price by Rs 3.60 per litre.

OMCs had preferred to maintain their watch prices on global oil situation before making any revision in prices. This is the reason why petrol prices were not revised for the last three weeks. But extreme volatility in global oil price movement has now pushed OMCs to effect the increase.

# Economic pickup will support borrowers, says Moody's

## Covid risks will remain high

**Mumbai:** Over the next three to six months, auto loan delinquency rates will stay elevated, though broadly stable from current levels, Moody's Investors Service said in its comment on auto loans.

Indian auto loan asset backed securities (ABS) delinquency rates have improved alongside the easing of coronavirus restrictions over recent months, but remain elevated. Delinquency rates will sta-

bilise at high levels as coronavirus restrictions ease, Moody's said, citing that Indian auto ABS delinquency and collection rates improved in June and July as economic activity picked up after coronavirus restrictions eased.

"While economic conditions have improved, this year's virus outbreak has eroded borrowers' financial reserves. Over the next three to six months, we expect delinquency rates will stay elevated at around current levels as many borrowers continue to deal with the pandemic's economic after effects," the ratings agency said.

"The Indian auto ABS we rate benefit from non-amor-

tizing cash reserves and substantial excess spread," Moody's said, adding that these features mitigate risks from elevated delinquency rates for Indian auto ABS, because they provide deals with liquidity and buffers against losses.

Auto ABS performance improved because the pickup in economic activity over recent months raised demand and rates for goods transportation. Improving conditions for goods transportation are positive for the Indian auto ABS sector, because deals mostly securitise loans to commercial vehicle operators who earn income by moving freight.

# Punit Goenka questions Invesco's silence on merger proposal with Reliance

**Mumbai:**In the ongoing Zee-Invesco tussle, the company's Managing Director and CEO Punit Goenka has now broken his silence charging the company's largest shareholder with hiding facts that prevented it from bringing facts about a merger proposal earlier.

"...on a personal note, I have some questions as well. Why didn't Invesco make its plans public earlier? Does good corporate governance only apply to corporates and not their institutional investors?" Goenka asked in a statement issued by his office.

The statement talks about a merger proposal brought for-

ward by Invesco in February involving Reliance Industries, which was rejected by him as it would have resulted in loss of shareholder value to the tune of Rs 10,000 crore.

"During my briefing to the Board, I emphasised on the points pertaining to the proposal from Invesco. My attention was on the imbalance observed in the valuation and how it was not in the best interest of our shareholders. The only reason I did not agree to the proposal was because the shareholder value was getting compromised," Goenka said in his statement.

IAN S

# Investors' wealth jump over ₹ 10.56 lakh cr in 6 days

**New Delhi (PTI):** Investors added more than Rs 10.56 lakh crore to their wealth as markets continued their rally for the sixth straight session on Thursday. The BSE Sensex went past 61,000-mark for the first time ever on Thursday. It jumped 568.90 points or 0.94 per cent to its new closing peak of 61,305.95. During the day, it jumped to its all-time intra-day high of 61,353.25.

The benchmark has gained 2,116.22 points or 3.57 per cent since October 6.

Driven by the ongoing rally, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies since October 6 have zoomed Rs 10,56,157.81 crore to reach its record high of Rs 2,72,76,704.86 crore.

"Domestic equity continued its northward journey amid positive global cues, strong economic data and expectation of upbeat Q2 earnings. Bulls continued to remain in charge of Dalal street amid volatility, setting the stage for festive season. IT sector was in the limelight

today post strong numbers from Infosys, Wipro and Mindtree," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

From the Sensex chart, ITC was the biggest gainer, rallying nearly 3 per cent, followed by HDFC Bank, PowerGrid and ICICI Bank.

In contrast, TCS, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards.

In the broader market, the midcap and smallcap

indices rose up to 0.54 per cent. On a weekly basis, the benchmark has jumped 1,246.89 points or 2.07 per cent. Going past the 61,000-mark for the first time ever, the BSE Sensex soared 568.90 points or 0.94 per cent to finish at a new closing peak of 61,305.95. The index also marked its fresh intraday record of 61,353.25 during the day's trade. Similarly, the NSE Nifty surged 176.80 points or 0.97 per cent to a new lifetime closing high of 18,338.55.

# WPI inflation at 6-month low of 10.66% in Sept

**New Delhi:** The wholesale price-based inflation eased to a six-month low of 10.66 per cent in September, helped by moderating food prices even as crude petroleum witnessed a spike.

"The high rate of inflation in September 2021 is primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, non-food articles, food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, chemicals and chemical products etc. As compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement. **PTI**

# USIBC meets FM Sitharaman; praises India's reform trajectory

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Members of the influential US India Business Council in their meeting with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Wednesday praised India's reform trajectory and exuded confidence in the growing Indian economy.



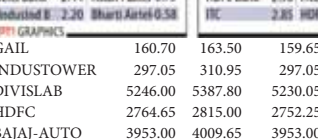
"We praised her reform trajectory and discussed new opportunities to strengthen commercial ties between the US and India," USIBC said after they along with CII hosted the visiting finance minister for an interactive session.

# HUDCO makes dividend payout

**New Delhi:** Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, Hardeep Singh Puri was presented the final dividend cheque of ₹174.23 crore at the rate of 14.25% for the year 2020-21, by Kamran Rizvi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Chairman & Managing Director, HUDCO in the presence of Shri DS Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA, M Nagaraj, Director (Corporate Planning), HUDCO, D Guhan, Director (Finance), HUDCO.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	18272.85	18350.75	18248.70	18338.55	176.80	
ADANIPORTS	766.10	817.70	764.25	812.95	53.95	
WIPRO	697.00	739.85	695.00	709.00	36.40	
GRASIM	1680.00	1775.00	1680.00	1754.00	76.95	
HDFCBANK	1638.00	1690.00	1638.00	1687.00	47.60	
ITC	253.25	261.85	250.35	256.30	7.10	
POWERGRID	200.20	205.95	198.25	204.95	5.55	
DIVISLAB	5248.90	5389.00	5226.20	5385.00	136.10	
ICICIBANK	710.25	729.80	705.00	726.40	16.45	
TECH	132.00	135.50	131.00	134.25	3.00	
IOC	1432.00	1459.60	1410.50	1430.70	28.55	
NTPC	147.50	150.60	146.85	149.20	2.95	
LI	1775.00	1817.90	1767.45	1787.00	34.95	
INDUSINDBK	1190.00	1215.00	1161.80	1208.05	23.55	
JSWSTEEL	690.00	699.00	686.95	694.00	12.55	
BAJAJFINSV	18350.00	18540.00	18215.10	18510.00	321.75	
HINDALCO	511.40	523.35	508.35	517.05	9.00	
HDFC	2758.30	2815.55	2751.85	2811.00	45.40	
SBIN	482.00	493.90	482.00	489.00	7.30	
TATASTEEL	1374.00	1390.60	1354.00	1372.50	18.20	
TITAN	2573.30	2584.00	2532.35	2567.00	29.80	
ULTRACEMCO	7440.00	7457.95	7340.00	7428.00	77.60	
AXISBANK	799.00	804.00	788.00	801.00	6.40	
SHREECEM	2797.80	28300.00	27911.15	28005.00	189.30	
DRREDDY	4924.00	5009.65	4914.05	4950.00	21.55	
KOTAKBANK	2000.00	2025.50	1985.00	2016.95	7.60	
BRITANNIA	3912.00	3925.00	3881.00	3897.00	13.30	
INFY	1754.00	1783.60	1698.20	1714.00	4.80	
RELIANCE	2700.35	2717.45	2687.20	2701.00	6.05	
UPL	753.00	759.00	742.50	749.10	1.65	
MARUTI	7540.00	7560.00	7445.00	7498.15	16.00	
NESTLEIND	19949.00	19428.75	19225.00	19356.95	36.30	
HEROMOTOCO	2934.00	2944.15	2900.00	2920.20	5.00	
HINDUNILVR	266.75	267.75	262.00	265.00	3.25	
BPCL	460.00	462.20	458.00	459.20	0.55	
CIPLA	917.45	920.50	909.90	912.35	-1.15	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3970.00	4009.05	3954.20	3962.00	-5.65	
TATACONSUM	859.95	860.00	846.00	847.00	-1.15	
BHARTIARTL	693.00	694.00	681.85	688.60	-1.30	
SUNPHARMA	843.00	850.00	838.25	840.10	-2.45	
M&M	98.50	94.25	92.20	93.20	-3.35	
SBILIFE	1192.95	1198.00	1173.80	1183.05	-8.70	
ASIANPAINT	3342.00	3352.95	3290.00	3297.80	-25.70	
ONGC	161.00	161.75	158.65	158.75	-1.25	
BAIFINANCE	7969.00	7969.00	7812.35	7860.00	-68.50	
TCS	3625.00	3670.00	3608.20	3614.90	-33.40	
HDFCLIFE	702.50	702.70	693.00	694.40	-6.50	
HCTECH	1289.40	1293.25	1244.05	1246.00	-19.35	
EICHERMOT	2905.00	2923.55	2845.00	2851.05	-54.70	
TATAMOTORS	530.00	530.00	492.00	496.60	-10.30	
COALINDIA	190.00	191.80	182.30	184.50	-5.55	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	44444.35	44890.15	44427.75	44597.40	380.15	
HAVELIS	1413.70	1479.80	1405.10	1478.55	68.85	
DMART	5194.00	5420.00	5180.00	5360.00	242.85	
ADANIANT	1580.00	1675.00	1574.80	1642.60	72.90	
VEDL	324.00	342.45	324.00	331.20	11.75	
JINDALSTEL	431.05	453.80	432.40	446.50	13.90	
NAUKRI	6830.00	7180.00	6819.85	6990.00	184.10	
INDUSTOWER	298.40	31.00	298.05	306.00	7.60	
INDIGO	2020.00	2087.00	2015.55	2069.00	51.45	
LI	6060.00	6273.15	6030.00	6101.00	149.65	
PNB	41.80	42.70	41.70	42.45	1.00	
AART	2270.00	2349.50	2267.00	2314.00	54.30	
SAIL	123.00	125.80	122.50	124.35	2.60	
HINDPETRO	322.00	335.80	321.75	331.90	6.10	
SHIBCARD	1117.00	1142.00	1103.00	1127.90	20.60	
HDFCAMC	2918.00	2918.00	2902.05	2950.00	49.60	
DLF	430.50	444.80	429.40	434.00	6.50	
BERGEPAINT	833.10	856.95	830.05	839.65	10.50	
AMBUJACEM	407.00	414.00	405.25	409.05	5.05	
PEL	2801.00	2855.00	2801.00	2831.00	33.95	
NMDC	152.80	154.40	152.10	153.25	1.65	
SIEMENS	2264.00	2307.95	2252.60	2270.40	21.10	
ADANI GREEN	1203.00	1212.25	1196.10	1204.40	10.90	
BANKBARODA	88.25	89.35	88.10	88.50	0.65	
GAIL	160.00	163.70	159.50	160.10	1.10	
PGHIL	13715.15	13900.00	13561.95	13800.00	84.85	
GLAND	3801.95	3819.90	3765.00	3792.00	12.60	
PIDILITIND	2486.60	2518.50	2463.40	2481.80	7.50	
BAJALHDNG	4755.45	4808.00	4716.70	4745.00	12.90	
ICICI	1524.00	1529.00	1514.00	1521.75	1.40	
YESBANK	13.25	13.45	13.20	13.25	0.00	
BSCHLTD	1807.00	1830.00	1781.05	1780.00	-30.00	
AUROPHARMA	734.65	737.00	724.20	727.00	-1.55	
TORNTPHARM	3135.00	3180.00	3109.50	3125.55	-6.80	
CADILAHC	548.90	552.00	543.50	543.90	-1.75	
CHOLAFIN	596.00	609.95	586.25	591.45	-3.05	
COLPAL	1699.75	1702.45	1678.00	1681.00	-13.80	
ICICIPRULI	660.00	661.95	650.00	651.45	-5.35	
PIND	3338.00	3367.80	3300.85	3310.20	-27.40	
MUTHOOTFIN	1587.00	1588.00	1541.30	1541.00	-12.95	
MARICO	588.35	591.20	578.10	578.80	-5.15	
APOLLOHOSP	4403.95	4429.75	4373.35	4330.00	-47.50	
BIOCON	519.75	519.75	509.00	509.75	-5.75	
IGL	353.75	354.60	347.70	347.70	-4.55	
MCDOWELL-N	905.70	909.90	885.35	889.00	-12.00	
ADANTIRMS	1665.00	1709.80	1665.00	1680.00	-22.75	
DABUR	626.00	627.90	612.45	614.90	-8.90	
BANDHANBNK	328.00	329.00	319.00	323.00	-5.15	
GODREJCP	1070.00	1072.20	1037.20	1039.95	-18.40	
LUPIN	963.30	968.15	945.00	945.90	-17.40	
JUBLFOOD	4544.00	4568.45	4393.65	4420.00	-105.70	

BSE 500										
Script	Open	High	Low	LTP						
IRCTC	5004.00	5593.85	4997.05	5467.35	IGL		521.85	521.85	509.00	510.20
TATAMOTORS	532.40	532.40	491.95	497.45	JSWSTEEL		691.00	699.00	683.15	692.85
TATAPOWER	235.10	236.25	220.70	222.45	LUPIN		968.00	968.00	945.00	946.10
ITC	252.60	261.80	250.30	256.55	ESCORTS		1513.35	1545.00	1508.00	1518.25
WIPRO	698.00	739.80	695.00	707.55						
ADANIPIRPORTS	765.20	817.45	764.05	811.90						
TCS	3650.00	3671.00	3608.40	3611.30						
MINDTREE	4590.00	4937.15	4550.00	4693.20						
ZEEL	319.60	321.35	311.50	319.30						
INFY	1744.00	1784.05	1698.25	1715.50						
TRIDENT	40.90	41.25	37.50	38.70						
TATACHEM	1144.00	1144.00	1078.85	1083.95						
BHEL	77.00	77.75	73.95	74.30						
VEDL	324.80	342.40	323.90	331.95						
RECLTD	161.30	168.65	159.85	164.80						
TATAMTRDVR	268.90	275.00	240.60	247.70						
HCLTECH	1288.00	1293.00	1244.35	1250.90						
DMART	5187.00	5420.00	5179.90	5329.65						
HDFCBANK	1642.45	1690.00	1639.05	1685.90						
SBIN	484.20	493.95	482.00	490.50						
SAIL	123.00	125.80	122.45	124.20						
IDEA	10.79	10.87	10.71	10.75						
TATASTEEL	1375.00	1390.00	1354.30	1373.65						
RELANCE	2705.00	2717.70	2687.15	2699.85						
CANBK	187.85	195.00	186.85	193.95						
TECHM	1425.00	1459.00	1411.00	1430.25						
CHOLIFARM	597.00	609.65	586.30	592.00						
INDIACEM	270.00	221.80	198.75	214.00						
DABUR	627.00	627.80	612.65	615.65						
NICLINDIA	72.00	78.80	70.30	77.70						
INDHOTEL	232.20	237.50	221.50	229.45						
JINDALSTEL	438.00	435.85	432.70	446.50						
IDBI	59.20	64.10	59.20	62.60						
IOX	802.20	802.35	784.20	792.85						
ADANIPOWER	108.80	112.05	107.55	112.05						
ADANIANT	1573.00	1656.35	1573.00	1646.45						
NATIONALUM	107.00	108.75	105.45	107.55						
LT	1766.20	1817.95	1766.20	1789.10						
IBREALEST	152.90	166.50	151.70	164.05						
NAUKRI	6800.05	7190.00	6800.05	6982.20						
GODFREYPROP	2488.00	2598.00	2461.10	2496.00						
PNB	41.70	42.75	41.70	42.55						
SRF	2411.00	2458.00	2403.05	2411.75						
HINDZINC	349.20	364.45	345.10	346.95						
MPHASIS	3210.00	3445.30	3210.00	3266.40						
DLF	430.00	446.00	429.60	434.95						
FEDERALBNK	94.85	95.45	92.80	93.15						
COALINDIA	190.50	191.80	182.40	183.75						
HINDALCO	514.00	523.30	508.35	516.00						
IOC	131.00	135.50	131.05	134.45						
MARUTI	7530.00	7559.10	7445.00	7490.60						
LAURUSLABS	633.25	652.90	628.60	650.95						
YUBJFOOD	455.00	467.60	439.05	440.25						
BPLCL	460.90	482.10	458.10	459.15						
HDFCAMC	2911.95	2964.30	2901.25	2949.65						
RAJFINANCE	7899.95	7989.95	7813.00	7860.00						
PPC	143.00	152.95	142.40	149.00						
UNIONBANK	44.80	46.45	44.45	44.80						
BSOFT	426.90	434.00	426.85	430.65						
M&M	937.95	945.95	922.55	931.65						
METROPOLIS	217.25	227.48	263.80	264.20						
NTPC	148.00	150.55	146.85	149.45						
HINDUNILVR	2663.90	2676.55	2620.90	2648.80						
MCX	80.00	2134.90	2024.40	2067.70						
BANKBARODA	88.05	89.35	88.05	88.75						
POWERGRID	200.00	205.85	198.40	204.50						
IBULHSFIN	238.45	241.90	236.60	237.55						
CIUBANK	711.00	729.50	709.55	727.10						
HKPL	690.15	693.80	682.00	680.15						
HFL	76.90	79.00	75.80	78.00						
NMDC	152.05	154.35	152.05	153.40						
TATACONS	860.00	862.35	846.05	849.00						
COFORGE	5390.00	5785.80	5390.00	5594.00						
CENTURYTEX	645.05	1003.25	942.45	962.40						
ITI	6064.00	6265.00	6026.95	6086.10						
FSL	209.80	222.65	209.45	217.75						
PERSISTENT	410.00	4289.40	4098.20	4220.00						
DKREDDY	493.00	5007.00	4922.30	4959.70						
PVR	1728.00	1731.35	1710.00	1712.30						
DELTAACP	286.90	294.55	278.30	289.95						
L&TH	92.60	95.10	92.30	94.15						
DIXON	5584.15	5648.80	5490.00	5514.90						
WIPACORP	1428.00	150.50	145.10	148.05						
ASHOKLEY	149.70	149.70	143.50	144.75						
HAVELLS	1421.00	1479.15	1408.05	1473.95						
BAJAJFINSV	1825.10	1854.60	1823.80	18520.00						
GRASIM	1689.75	1775.00	1680.90	1750.10						
INDIAMART	9500.00	9665.95	9233.00	9400.00						
ISEC	87.00	88.05	85.07	87.25						
AXISBANK	796.35	803.85	788.00	802.00						
LIATTS	4800.00	4937.35	4727.05	4818.70						
DEEPAKNI	2909.00	2957.00	2878.60	2897.55						
HINDCOOPER	128.90	138.00	128.90	132.25						
TATAELSI	6290.00	6357.80	6200.05	6255.45						
ONGC	161.00	161.80	158.65	159.05						
BELM	1529.95	1680.00	1509.60	1658.75						
ELFICIRSTB	48.65	49.80	48.65	49.35						
INDIANB	163.95	167.50	161.10	164.45						
UPL	750.00	799.00	745.75	748.90						
MOTHERSUMI	255.95	257.60	245.35	246.45						
CAMS	308.65	310.00	305.00	306.20						
INDUSINDBK	1185.00	1215.00	1162.50	1209.90						
VENKYS	316.80	325.00	314.05	318.85						
HEROMOTOCO	2925.60	2944.20	2900.25	2938.05						
TITAN	2559.80	2583.90	2533.15	2565.15						
ORERIOILTY	97.40	100.00	95.10	95.70						
BATAINDIA	2086.50	2126.05	2068.00	2112.60						



# China warns against ‘manipulation’ of WHO virus probe

**Beijing:** China's Foreign Ministry on Thursday warned against what it called possible "political manipulation" of a renewed probe by the World Health Organization into the origins of the coronavirus, while saying it would support the international body's efforts.

The WHO on Wednesday released a proposed list of 25 experts to advise it on next steps in the search for the

virus's origins after its earlier efforts were attacked for going too easy on China, where the first human cases were detected in late 2019.

Beijing was accused of withholding raw data on early cases during a visit by a WHO team in February and has since resisted calls for further investigation, saying the US and others were politicising the matter.

Foreign Ministry spokesper-

son Zhao Lijian said China would "continue to support and participate in global scientific tracing and firmly oppose any forms of political manipulation."

"We hope that all parties concerned, including the WHO secretariat and the advisory group, will effectively uphold an objective and responsible scientific attitude," Zhao told reporters at a daily

briefing.

The experts proposed by the UN health agency include some who were on the original team that went to the central Chinese city of Wuhan to investigate the origins of Covid-19.

The findings of the original WHO-led team were inconclusive, and the experts released a report concluding it was "extremely unlikely" that

the coronavirus leaked from a Wuhan lab, prompting criticism from outside scientists that the theory had not been properly vetted.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus later acknowledged it had been "premature" to dismiss the lab theory.

Beijing has repeatedly questioned whether the virus did indeed originate in China,

and has called for investigations into US military laboratories without providing any solid evidence.

China has largely stamped out cases of local transmission of Covid-19 infections through mask wearing, quarantining and electronic case tracing, along with sometimes draconian measures including lockdowns and mandatory mass testing.

**AP**

# US, Israel exploring ‘Plan B’ for Iran

**Washington:**The United States and Israel said on Wednesday they are exploring a "Plan B" for dealing with Iran if the Islamic Republic does not return in good faith to negotiations to salvage the languishing landmark 2015 nuclear deal.

a party to the nuclear deal, which former President Donald Trump withdrew from in 2018, and its former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was a vocal opponent of the agreement negotiated by the Obama administration.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said discussions between their two countries have begun on "other options" should Iran reject an offer to come back into compliance with the agreement if the U.S. rejoins it.

Blinken and Lapid made the remarks at a joint news conference at the State Department with the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates at which all three agreed to try to expand on the so-called "Abraham Accords," the Trump-era agreements that normalized relations between Israel and the UAE and other Arab States. Their comments came as Iran has hinted it's ready to return to indirect negotiations with the U.S. in Vienna but has not committed to a date. Iran has also continued to blow through limits on its nuclear activities that had been constrained by the deal.

They did not elaborate on what those options might be, but there are a wide range of non-diplomatic options that could be considered, ranging from stepped up sanctions to covert or military actions. A Biden administration priority has been to revive the deal and abandoning that goal would be a blow to its foreign policy objectives.

The remarks were a rare acknowledgment by the U.S. that it is looking at what to do in the event diplomacy with Iran fails. Israel has never been

Blinken reiterated that the window for Iran to return to the agreement is closing but again declined to give a date at which it would be too late. "Time is running short," he said.

# At UN court, Armenia accuses Azerbaijan of ethnic hatred

**The Hague:** Armenia accused neighbouring Azerbaijan of systematically promoting ethnic hatred against Armenia citizens, as the two nations that fought a six-week war last year faced off at a UN court on Thursday.

Armenian representative Yeghishe Kirakosyan made the accusation as a hearing opened at the International Court of Justice into a request by Armenia for judges to impose urgent interim measures to prevent Azerbaijan breaching an international convention to stamp out ethnic discrimination.

The case stems from longstanding enmity that boiled over into last year's war over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh that left more than 6,600 people dead. The region is within Azerbaijan but had been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since the end of a separatist war in 1994.

Kirakosyan said Armenia

wasn't asking the court to rule on the root causes of the war, but "seeks to prevent and remedy the cycle of violence and hatred perpetrated against ethnic Armenians."

Lawyers representing Azerbaijan were scheduled to address the court later Thursday.

Azerbaijan also has filed a similar case alleging discrimination against its citizens by Armenia and also has requested the world court to impose interim measures. Hearings in the Azerbaijan case are scheduled to start next Monday. Rulings on both requests will likely be issued in coming weeks.

Both nations' cases alleging breaches of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination will likely take years to reach their conclusion at the Hague-based court.

Last year's conflict ended

when Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan signed a Russia-brokered ceasefire agreement that granted Azerbaijan control over parts of Nagorno-Karabakh as well as adjacent territories occupied by Armenians.

# John Kerry says UN climate talks may miss target

**Washington:** Crucial UN climate talks next month likely will end short of the global target for cutting coal, gas and oil emissions, US climate envoy John Kerry says, after nearly a year of climate diplomacy that helped win deeper cuts from allies but has so far failed to move some of the world's biggest polluters to act fast enough.

Kerry also spoke of the impact if the US Congress — under a slim Democratic majority — fails to pass legislation for significant action on climate by the United States itself, as the Biden administration aims to regain leadership on climate action.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Kerry credited the United States, the European Union, Japan and others that over the past year have pledged bigger, faster cuts in climate-wrecking fossil fuel emissions ahead of the talks in Glasgow, Scotland, under nudging from Kerry and the Biden administration.

He expressed hope enough nations would join in over the next couple of years. "By the time Glasgow's over, we're going to know who is doing their fair share, and who isn't," he said.

Kerry's comments came after nine months of intensive climate diplomacy by plane, phone and computer screen aimed at nailing down the most global commitments of action on climate possible ahead of the UN climate summit, which opens October 31 in Scotland.

**AP**

# China launches its first solar exploration satellite

**Beijing:** China on Thursday sent its first solar exploration satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province.

The satellite was launched aboard a Long March-2D rocket and entered its planned orbit successfully.

Ten small satellites including an orbital atmospheric density detection experimental satellite and a commercial meteorological detection constellation experimental satellite were also sent into space using the same carrier rocket, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. It was the 391st flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

**PTT**

# China set to send 3 astronauts on longest crewed mission yet

**AP ■ BEIJING**

China is preparing to send three astronauts to live on its space station for six months — a new milestone for a program that has advanced rapidly in recent years.

It will be China's longest-ever crewed space mission and set a record for the most time spent in space by Chinese astronauts. The Shenzhou-13 spaceship is expected to be launched into space on a Long March-2F rocket early Saturday morning from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on the edge of the Gobi Desert in northwestern China.

The first crew who served a 90-day mission aboard the main Tianhe core module of the space station returned in mid-September.

The new crew has two veterans of space travel. Pilot Zhai Zhigang, 55, performed China's first spacewalk. Wang Yaping, 41 and the only woman on the mission, carried out experiments.

# Lanka Navy arrests 23 Indian fishermen

**Colombo:** The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 23 Indian fishermen and seized two trawlers for allegedly poaching in the country's territorial waters, an official statement said on Thursday.

The Navy arrested the fishermen off the coast of Vettalaiken in the northern province's point Pedro area.

**PTT**

# 5 killed in Beirut during protest over judge in blast probe

**Beirut:** Lebanon's interior minister says five people have been killed in armed clashes in Beirut that erupted Thursday during protests against the lead investigator into last year's massive blast at the city's port.

Bassam Mawlawi told reporters Thursday that many of those injured were shot by snipers from buildings. He called the events, "a very dangerous sign." The protest was organized by the militant Shiite group Hezbollah and its ally, the Shiite Amal Movement.

**AP**

# Syrian allies vow response to Israeli strike, also blame US

**Damascus:** Syria's defense ministry said on Thursday that one of its soldiers has been killed and three injured in an overnight Israeli airstrike on a telecommunication tower in the central

province of Homs.

A military official said the strike shortly before midnight in the Palmyra region hit the tower and some posts around it.

The official did not iden-

tify the targets further. Syrian air defenses were activated to respond to the incoming missiles, which the defense ministry said originated from the Tanf region in southeast Syria.

## FROM PAGE 1

# MORE TEETH FOR BSF TURN INTO ACHE...

"Captain sahib please do not do this. Do not go down this road by mixing up with the BJP. The BJP cannot let Punjab become a disturbed State and impose Governor's Rule in the State. I want to tell them that we will not allow the BJP to be successful in its designs. It is a sample of the BJP's polarisation policy," he said. Pargat has been a staunch critic and opponent of Amarinder, who, incidentally, supported the Centre's move. "Our soldiers are being killed in Kashmir. We're seeing more & more weapons & drugs being pushed by Pak-backed terrorists into Punjab. BSF's enhanced presence & powers will only make us stronger. Let's not drag central armed forces into politics," Amarinder Singh's media adviser said on Twitter.Former Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee chief and the party's Lok Sabha MP from Punjab Sunil Jakhar also launched a veiled attack on the former CM saying "the country is always proud of our security forces which are meant to secure our borders and protect India from foreign aggressors. Using them to cover up failures and to clean up the mess created by leaders and Governments is very alarming."The Congress, for its part, slammed the Centre over its "unilateral" decision to increase the BSF's jurisdiction in a few States.AICC chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala claimed at a Press conference the move was meant to divert people's attention from the recent drug haul from the Adani-run Mundra Port in Gujarat.Taking a dig at Home Minister Amit Shah and his famous "chronology samjhiye" remark, Surjewala linked the 25,000 kg shipment that reportedly came through the Adani Port in June, and a 3,000 kg (valued at Rs 20,000 crore) shipment captured at the same port in September, to the order on BSF jurisdiction.

"The Chronology- 25,000 kgs of heroin in drugs came through Adani Port, Gujarat on 9/6/2021. 3,000 kgs of heroin drugs caught at Adani Port, Gujarat on 13/9/2021, BSF jurisdiction unilaterally increased from 15 kms to 50 kms in Punjab. Federalism Dead, Conspiracy Clear," said the Congress leader.

While the TMC-ruled West Bengal too has opposed the Centre's move, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma welcomed the decision.

**BID TO STANDARDISE ...**

On Monday, the Union Home Ministry issued a Gazette notification increasing the jurisdiction of the BSF to give its officers the powers of arrest, search and seizure to the extent of 50 km from the borders inside the bordering States of Punjab, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura.

According to an affidavit submitted before the Supreme Court earlier, as many

as 40,000 Rohingya migrants who have illegally entered the country are residing in sensitive areas like Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) as well as Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe in the Bodh Gaya blasts had revealed the role of the Rohingyas. The Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, a terror outfit from Bangladesh had also formed a large network of jihadis in West Bengal and Assam for carrying out terrorist activities, officials said.

They said the Rohingyas are being trained by the Pakistani terror groups like Lashkar-e-Tayabba in Myanmar for carrying out terrorist actions in various countries, including in India. The LeT is also known to exploit the Rohingya migrants in India for terrorist actions as was the case in Bodh Gaya blasts.

According to the notification, BSF officers are now authorised to take action under the CrPC, Passport Act, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and Passport (Entry to India) Act.

The Ministry notified that the BSF will also be able to search and arrest in Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur and Ladakh. However, the jurisdiction of BSF in Gujarat has been reduced while in Rajasthan the radius area has been kept 50 km as before.

The jurisdiction for the BSF extends to the whole of five Northeastern States of Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur. No such operational boundary has been quantified for the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

Section 139 of the BSF Act, 1968, empowers the Centre to notify the area and extent of the Central paramilitary force's operational mandate, from time to time.

While the borders in the eastern side have been infested by smuggling syndicates to smuggle cattle and cough syrup to the neighbouring countries besides terrorist infrastructure of the JMB comprising illegal migrants, the borders in the western sector comprising the States of Rajasthan and Punjab besides J&K is exploited by the inimical forces from Pakistan to smuggle in drugs, and arms and ammunition to destabilise the security situation in the UT and Punjab..

**INDIA GETS...**

India's current term was set to end on December 31 2021. For election for the term 2022-2024, there were five vacant seats in the Asia-Pacific States category - India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Qatar and United Arab Emirates. The 193-member General Assembly elected by secret ballot Argentina, Benin, Cameroon, Eritrea, Finland, Gambia, Honduras, India, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Montenegro, Paraguay, Qatar, Somalia, UAE and the USA for the 2022-2024 term on the Council. India's mission congratulated other UN Member States for their election to the Human Rights

Council, which consists of 47 Member States elected directly and individually by secret ballot by the majority of the members of the General Assembly.

The members of the Council shall serve for a period of three years and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election after two consecutive terms.

The membership is based on equitable geographical distribution, and seats are distributed among regional groups Group of African States (13), Group of Asia-Pacific States (13), Group of Eastern European States (6), Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (8) and Group of Western European and other States (7).

As of January 2021, 119 of the 193 UN member States will have served as a member of the HRC.

**IN CLOSE...**

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka, as well as consulates, are in touch with the authorities," Bagchi said.

For his part, BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him to take urgent steps to provide relief to the 'Sanatani People' of Bangladesh in view of the incident. "The notorious vandals are habituated in targeting the 'Sanatani' minority community of Bangladesh. This time the religious fanatics took to the streets to vandalise several Durga Puja pandals and various temples also," he wrote.

**GOONS ATTACK...**

They, however, did not explain if the casualties were caused due to the police actions but media reports said that the police opened fire on a mob of over 500 people.

The police said that they have so far detained 43 people in connection with the violence.

People who posted the first video on the Cumilla puja venue on social media were also under custody.

"Investigations are underway and we are identifying the culprits also using security camera footage," police's Deputy Inspector General Anwar Hossain told the media in Cumilla.

Ruling Awami League general secretary and Road Transport Minister Obaidul Qader said that "fanatic elements" staged attacks on Hindu temples at 10 to 12 places with a political motive.

"But our Government led by (Prime Minister) Sheikh Hasina will not let them proceed with their evil design," he told reporters visiting a Puja pavilion at the Ramkrishna Mission here.

He cautioned people against spreading rumours to sever the interfaith harmony in the country, adding that Hasina has ordered stringent actions against the communal elements.

# VARUN TWEETS ATAL'S PRO-FARMER...

farmers' protest in their support", said Vajpayee in the video posted by Varun.

The BJP MP's continued vocal support for farmers' agitation and demanded for the arrest of the Lakhimpur Khri violence on October 3 comes about nine months before the next year's Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, where the BJP is seeking a second inning.

Varun's defiance has already led to his and his mother Maneka Gandhi's ouster from the national executive.

# ORDER ON ARYAN'S BAIL...

After hearing the ASG, the lawyers of Aryan and other accused seeking bail, Additional Sessions Judge VV Patil of the special NDPS court reserved his ruling for October 20. The judge said that on Wednesday next (October 20) he would pronounce orders on three bail applications, including that of Aryan.

The special court is hearing the bail pleas of Aryan and four others --- Arbaaz Merchant, Mohak Jaswal, Nupur Satija and Munmun Dhamecha.

Twenty-three-year-old Aryan and four others --- Arbaaz, Mohak, Nupur and Dhamecha - were among the eight persons arrested by the NCB on October 3, a night after the NCB officials busted a rave party and seized 13 grams of cocaine, 5 grams of MD (Mephedrone), 21 grams of Charas, 22 pills of MDMA (Ecstasy) and Rs 1.33 lakh in cash from Goa-bound cruise ship off the Mumbai coast here.

The total number of arrests in the sensational drug bust case has gone up to 20, with the arrest of a foreign national Okara Quazma and a local person Shivraj Harihan.

Earlier, continuing with his arguments that remained inconclusive on Wednesday, the ASG told the court: "The present applicant is not a consumer for the first time. The record and the evidence before your honour show that he is a regular consumer of contraband since last few years. The contraband in possession of Arbaz with accompanied Aryan, was for consumption of both of them."

"The record in the panchnama signed by the applicant establishes that he was in a conscious position of contraband because he admits it was with his friend and it was for consumption of both of them..The contention that nothing was found with Applicant may not be correct," the ASG said.

Alluding to the conspiracy charge that Aryan faces, the ASG said: "Now see Section 37 of NDPS. The reason I am pointing to 37 is because I pointed out 29.

I have come with a case of conspiracy. In one case if there are 15-20 people involved and it is a case of conspiracy and possession with one accused, then 37 kicks in. And then stringent conditions against grant of bail will apply".

"This abuse is affecting the young boys. They are college going boys (but) this should not be considered or bail. I need not tell the court, you are the future of our country..... The investigation is at a preliminary stage, this is not the stage for grant of bail," the ASG told the court.

Contesting the contention by Aryan's lawyer Amit Desai, the ASG told the court: "Today we are at the preliminary stage of investigation. My learned friend is saying I cannot apply Section 29 (conspiracy) of NDPS Act at this stage. But there is no restriction on me applying to Section 29. It is not the correct position. As far as charges are concerned I can invoke any sections. As investigation progresses further, I will get evidence"

"There are provisions in the NDPS Act which has got nothing to do with quantity, so that cannot be an argument to say that punishment is only for a year. Once the connection is established, then the quantity is not important. My submission is that this is not a case for grant of bail, I have some judgments to cite," the ASG said.

# PIA SUSPENDS...

On Thursday, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid asked the PIA and Afghan Kam Air to reduce fares on the Kabul-Islamabad route to previous levels or face a halt to their flight operations.

A letter from Afghanistan's Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation asked the PIA and Kam Air to bring down the airfare for Kabul-Islamabad flights to the level that existed before the Taliban seized control of Kabul on August 15.

PIA has been the only foreign carrier operating regular flights out of Kabul.

Tickets to the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, had been selling for up to 10 times the August rate, the BBC Urdu reported.

A massive shortage of seats has resulted in one way tickets from Kabul to Islamabad selling for as much as USD 2,500, it said.

The letter in Pashto and Dari languages was issued by Mujahid and was also posted on the official Facebook page of the Afghan Aviation Ministry.

"Information has been conveyed to PIA and Kam Air private company to bring down the fare on the Kabul-Islamabad route to the level prior to the victory of the Islamic Emirate. If the airlines do not agree to this proposal their operations on the route will be stopped," the letter said.

It asked passengers to contact the ministry in case the prices of the tickets were

not changed.

Abdullah Khan, the PIA spokesperson, said that the airline had kept flying in and out of Kabul under "difficult circumstances" when others had ceased their operations.

"The PIA evacuated around 3,000 people after the rapidly changing situation in Afghanistan," he said, adding that among the people flown out of Kabul were officials of the United Nations, World Bank, the IMF, other global organisations as well as international journalists.

Khan said that the airline's captains and staff endangered their lives but still kept the evacuation process going.

Earlier, PIA sources had accused the airport operators in Kabul of treating PIA staff in a highly unprofessional manner and deliberately wasting PIA flights, costing the airline millions of dollars in insurance, BBC Urdu reported.

**INDIA TO SHOUT SUCCESS ...**

"All the departments concerned have been instructed to be prepared in advance to disseminate the achievement via the media to make people aware of it.

A special recognition will also likely be announced to motivate the healthcare workers and professionals, and ASHA and Anganwadi workers who have been working tirelessly in the fight against Covid.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had said on Wednesday that the country will produce over 28 crore doses in October as it continues to ramp up its supply. Speaking to reporters, Mandaviya said that nearly 73 per cent of the eligible population has received a single dose of vaccine and around 29 per cent has got both doses. States now have over eight crore doses with them, he said.

So far, 96.82 crore vaccine doses have been administered to the eligible beneficiaries.

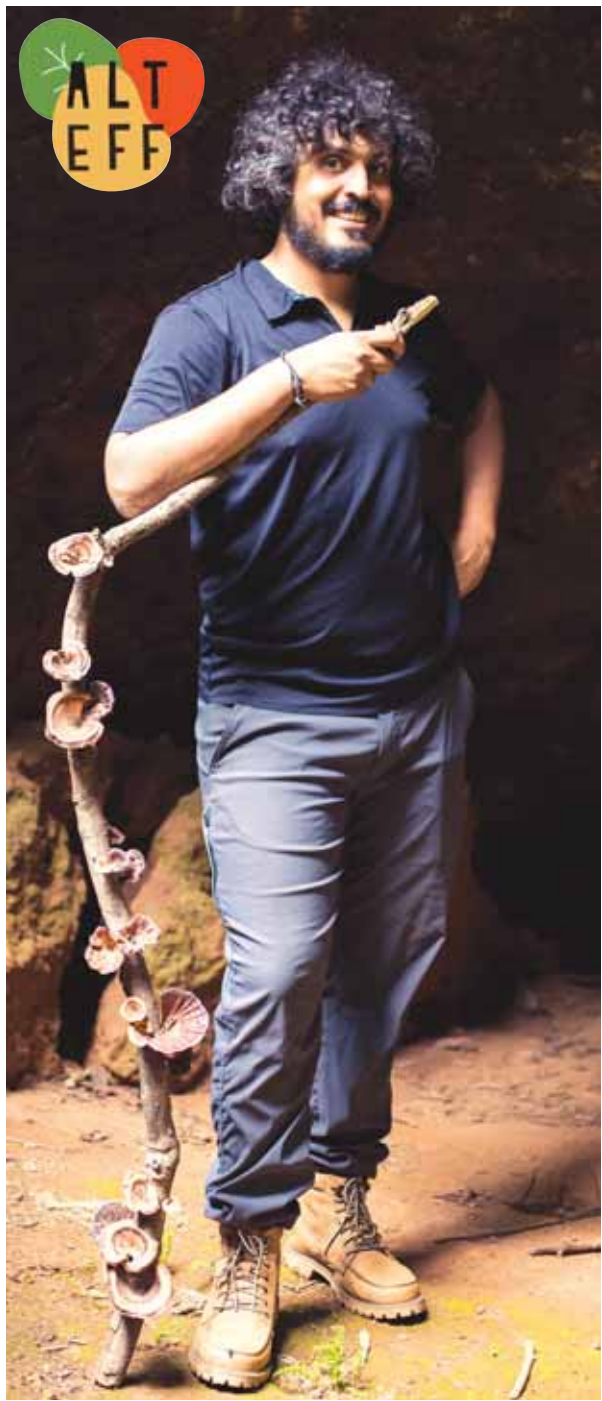
**SIT TAKES MIN'S...**

On Thursday, investigators reached the district jail premises in the morning to take Das, Latif and Bharti into police custody. The trio was taken to the crime branch's office at Reserve Police Lines.

On October 3, a total of eight persons died, including four farmers who ere were knocked down by a vehicle carrying Bharatiya Janata party workers. In retaliation, infuriated farmers torched two SUVs and lynched some people in the vehicles. The other deceased included two BJP workers and their driver. The violence also left a journalist dead.

In the aftermath, farmers alleged that the Union Minister's son Ashish was in one of the vehicles, an allegation which was vehemently denied by Mishra.





# GIVE NATURE A CHANCE

In a conversation with **CHRISTY VARGHESE**, **KUNAL KHANNA**, the founder of ALT EFF, shares that we still have time to reverse the damage we have done to our environment

India, a country where conventional cinema has ruled the entertainment game for decades, has a negligible, but growing, interest in documentary films. A fact that most of us are familiar with, without having to turn to surveys or studies on the same. However, a lot has changed in the past several years.

While we are talking about the shift in consciousness that has become increasingly visible and loud, we have to admit that the pandemic brought matters to the fore. A month into the nation-wide lockdown, pollution levels in cities were down to bearable levels; with factories not functioning, and not pumping waste material into the rivers, the colour of the water in these rivers also changed. Such observable changes led us to scratch our chins and wonder, would the environment be better off if we were not around?

Roughly a year and a half post the first lockdown, we have lowered our masks and we are back at it. It appears we humans forget quite easily. However, it is a stroke of luck that there still are some individuals among us who can't help but remember something they have realised.

Meet Kunal Khanna, the founder of the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF), India's first environmental film festival. Born in Mumbai, and raised in Panchgani, Khanna gained his sense of independence through an adulthood in Australia. After returning to his roots in India, back in 2018, Khanna started running a permaculture farm and realising our dependency on nature, he developed ALT EFF

to become a catalyst for environmental change in India.

While ALT EFF was launched virtually in 2020, against the backdrop of the pandemic, Khanna reveals that the film festival was originally conceptualised as a physical festival back in 2019, full of experiences, gatherings and a lively sustainability market. However, working on the virtual model was a blessing in disguise as they were able to engage viewers from across the world. With 33 films, and over 4,500 viewers, the maiden ALT EFF criss-crossed countries, habitats and some serious issues.

Khanna expresses, “Our motive at ALT EFF is to bring forth stories of hope while inspiring more people to look at the important issues of our time. We are trying to create awareness and through the awareness generate some change in the way we lead our lives.”

This time around, their presence was bound to grow with 44 films being screened from October 9-17. Read on for excerpts from the interview, for a peek into Khanna's mind.

**Was there any single incident which acted as an epiphany, of sorts, for you to switch careers and come back to India?**

It was not a moment but many things over a couple of years.

I trained as an economist for my undergraduate studies and later went on to work at the state treasury of Victoria. And I could not help but be concerned by the

way classic economic theory had us looking at the world. Essentially, we could be doing a lot of damage, the way we go about producing things and living our life, but as long as a 'profit' is being generated, we don't need to worry about the rest of the details — and this was very fundamental in economic theory.

I was practising economics for about three years and I could not digest that information any more because the world around us was changing and we could see the environmental impact, the damage that was being inflicted upon nature, unfolding before our very eyes. That is when I started questioning the system we live in and the economic model upon which our system is based. At that time I decided to go and do a master's in environment with the intention of devoting my life to that subject. During my 13 years in Australia, I observed the power of films and how it could cause change and that is what led to the India's first environmental film festival.

**Is it a bit too late to raise our voice for the environment?**

As per recent studies and reports, and considering the way how things are going, one might feel that things have gotten out of hand. However, the fact that so many of us are working towards the conservation of our environment, in varying capacities, is based on the ideology that it is never too late. And I believe so because I have

seen up close how if we give nature a chance to do what it does best, it won't take too long to regain its past glory.

We as humans have created a solution for every problem that we have encountered for aeons and hopefully, this is just another such instance, even though it is a big one, admittedly. The entire premise of the environmental film festival is to bring about that hope.

I feel that we, who are in India, have limited exposure to what is going on around the world. Our exposure, in terms of news and the people that we follow on social media and/or interact with, is actually very limited. Which is why we bring stories from across the globe — out of 44 films that are being screened this time around, 31 are from 31 different countries.

They really open our eyes to what all is happening; are you aware that at this moment there are waves of numerous individuals who are standing up and raising their voices to attract our attention to this serious problem? We hope to inspire more and more people with time and create a tsunami of change.

**What did your role as the innovations lead city of Melbourne entail? Did you try to incorporate some changes keeping in mind environmental factors as well?**

Yes, of course! My role over there was to consider innovations and creative ways to ensure that Melbourne continues to be one of the most liveable cities in

the world. The role required me to diversify my skills, and taught me a lot, as I had to work on multiple aspects such as developing interfaces to make life a little more convenient for the people of the city and also what we can do to address environmental issues, such as introducing green spaces in the urban areas, or how we can manage organic food waste.

I would work with a very wide range of ideas and concepts, but my role was to use the innovations that the people of Melbourne had to offer. Every major city across the world welcomes innovations that can help its citizens and India too has a lot of potential in that regard, with some very capable people doing some incredible work. However, governments often fail to capitalise on that.

Melbourne, which has been featuring in the top 10 liveable cities in the world for quite some time now, takes such steps very seriously. We transformed how we were managing the waste systems, while I was the innovations lead.

While we are familiar with the two dustbin system, one for biodegradable waste and the other for non-biodegradable waste, we introduced a third bin — for food waste. We turned that into compost, to be used as organic fertiliser by people growing their own food.

We transformed a liability

to a resource. I also remember open innovation competition, which I have led in the past, where we invited new ideas centred around the concept of circularity. Essentially, 'this means designing ways where waste is essentially non-existent, where it is turned into something useful and this system goes round and round. Our goal was to ensure circularity as a city, while reducing the environmental footprint.

**Documentary films do not have many takers in India. What are your expectations from the second edition of ALT EFF?**

The reason why documentary films are not given enough attention is because there aren't enough platforms in India. Lack of funding is another reason. When there are more film festivals that celebrate documentaries and lesser-known stories, it will translate into more people picking up this format of filmmaking.

This year we want to inspire the youth to cover environmental topics. It would be ideal if fictional films would also highlight this important aspect, but let's see how that goes.

Currently we aspire to obtain more traction in the form of funding which would help us fund students and other aspiring film makers to go out and cover important topics. To view the films being screened and to know more about ALT EFF, visit [alteff.in](http://alteff.in).

## Best foot forward

Traditional footwear, especially *juttis*, presents a lot of potential on the style-front, says **SHILPA AGARWALLA**, while offering advice on how to pair them

It is no secret that Indian culture has an expansive range of diversity and makes a statement that grabs attention and isn't overwhelming. Conventional footwear can easily be styled and is very comfortable. Traditional footwear, especially *juttis*, presents a lot of potential on the style-front.

Every ethnic footwear is stereotyped a certain way. However, *juttis* have come a long way with multiple colours, prints, shapes, and patterns. They can complement any outfit with utmost ease.

**Comfort without compromising style**

*Juttis* are an invention that make you look chic while never compromising on accessibility or comfort. These are the pair of shoes that your feet won't hate at the end of the day. The triple cushioning and leather padding prevent your feet from blisters, adding comfort for long hours. They are easy to glide in and out, so it makes the best option to put on while running errands, too.

**Variety at its best**

If you are new to the enchanting world of *juttis*, take your first steps with primary colours like tan, black, beige, navy blue. Start by pairing this with a basic white shirt and blue denims, and add the pair to give an ethnic touch without being overwhelming. You can also wear them to your workplace and still look formal. Replace the belle shoes by pairing *juttis* with casual dresses and



colours to hand embroidery and hand-painted ones, there's one for every occasion.

Along with *juttis*, another very traditional shoe is the *kolhapuri*, which is known for their unique shape and leather. The *kolhapuri* gives a distinct individuality, making it look elegant yet traditional when worn with sarees; they are equally beautiful with pant style suits and indo-western outfits. A *kolhapuri* features a flattering silhouette that eliminates complicated shoes and heels.

Overall, it is possible to pair ethnic footwear with contemporary silhouettes, *juttis*, and *kolhapuris* to style seamlessly.

**A *jutti* for every occasion**  
*Juttis* and weddings are like best friends forever; opt for the hand-embroidered or hand-painted *juttis* in bright and vibrant colours to make them pop. From solid

Today, the young generation are often inclined to western songs, hence, leaving less space for developing a taste or adoration for Indian classical music. I had the recent opportunity to talk to one of the finest maestros in the industry and thoroughly enjoyed the conversation, making me look at Indian music in a newer light.

Ustaad Bahauddin Dagar is an acclaimed rudra veena player and the son of the renowned north Indian musician, Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar. He represents the 20<sup>th</sup> generation of the Dagar lineage, which dates back, to Nayak Haridas Dagar, to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In an exclusive interview, he shares his journey and comments on how the rise of social media platforms has changed the perspective of the audience in recent times.

Read on for some excerpts from the interview:

**When did you start your journey of music?**

I have been raised in a family where almost everyone is into music, thus, the journey of learning music began during my childhood. We were always surrounded by a motivating atmosphere when it came to music, art, and poetry. Musicians and students used to be gathered at our house in order to learn and grow together. When you are nurtured in such a manner, you get inclined towards art. I also used to listen to rock, pop, jazz, along with several forms of Indian classical music. So, by the time I was 16, I had planned to be a musician, and I asked my father if he could teach me, and that was how my first venture into this enigmatic world happened.

**Who is your inspiration?**

I have always been inspired by my father, Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar, and my uncle, Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar Music. For me, music is a way of expressing emotion. I was inspired by the good works of musicians like Kishori



Amonkar. The concept of contemporary music is also unique. Music is ever dynamic and every musician has contributed something, in their own manner, thus, achieving success in the process.

**Did you learn any instrument apart from Rudra veena?**

At the age of seven, I had started learning sitar, but I dropped it as my only desire was to learn and get to know the rudra veena.

**How is rudra veena different from saraswati veena?**

Saraswati veena is popular in the south, and it is made up of one piece of wood. It is designed to suit the Carnatic style of music.

Rudra veena is basically a stringed instrument designed for north Indian music, like *khayal* and *dhrupad*. Rudra veena is also considered as a yantra or a compass as it measures

the notes, microtones to their exactness and helps the singers understand how the notes are placed.

**Apart from music, what are your other areas of interest?**

Apart from music, I like to go to museums, observe beautiful paintings displayed at art exhibitions, spend time with nature, visit wildlife sanctuaries, and so on.

**What is your favourite genre of music?**

Currently, I am working with *dhrupad*, and the last 30 years have proved to be extremely enriching. It has helped rearranging my music clearly, and it has kept me occupied throughout. I hardly get any time to listen to any other music. Once in a while, I get time to explore western music or other forms of music like qawwali, ghazal, and so forth.



**What is that one flavour that you miss in today's music?**

I think that the music has become more polished and refined in the present times. Also, I miss long hours at concerts that used to be the norm of our day. Nowadays, concerts have a tight schedule. When we had short concerts, one singer used to sing for two to three hours so the singers and the audience had time to warm up, but things have changed now. Today's concerts are more like a performance, which is not the idea of Indian classical music, where one has to keep on rediscovering new ideas. I miss lengthier concerts that felt like like four to five journeys, where the musicians would share their journey with you.

**You have a long legacy. Does it work in your favour or do you need to raise your bar?**

The legacy favours us because we follow our particu-

lar *sanskar* at home. However, sometimes we need to work twice as much as people are looking up to us all the time. You need to raise your bar all the time else your time will be over.

**How has your audience changed over the years?**

I think the audience has changed due to platforms like YouTube and other social media platforms, which have promoted so many genres and increased the reach significantly. The perspective of the audience has changed. I remember the times when the musicians had a lesser audience to entertain. With the rise of social media platforms, a new generation of the audience has come up. Today, every recording is available online, so if you don't play well enough, you will get criticised.

**What has changed for the artists and the audience amidst the pandemic?**

The audience is missing out on the fun of live performances and concerts, while artists have suffered economically. Many musicians' careers have ended and some have taken up odd jobs.

At the same time, I also feel that musicians had time, during the pandemic, to reflect on who they are as human beings and how their work has progressed. Both good and bad things happened.

**What are your upcoming projects?**

Once you get into this kind of role, your entire life becomes a project. There are some concerts lined up. On October 23, I am playing in Jaipur at Jawahar Kala Kendra; then next year, I am supposed to go to Paris for a concert.

## TREND BLAZER



### ‘GOOD FILMS NEED FINE ACTORS’

Actor **NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI**, who has been nominated in the Best Actor category at the International Emmy Awards for the Netflix film *Serious Men*, says that good actors are needed for making amazing content.

“A lot of content is being made, but it will not come out if the directors and actors don't perform well. So, no matter how good the content is, if the actor, or the director, is not fine enough, there is no meaning to the content. For making a good film, good people are needed,” he expressed.



**fairtalk**  
TAAPSEE PANNU

“I don't think that I can pick any favourite sportsperson because I am amazed by these sportspeople. They are the real heroes for me. I follow them more than I follow any other profession, and I don't think I can consider any other profession as heroic as representing the country. Some sportsperson commented that I looked like a real athlete.”



**dailytalk**  
REMO D' SOUZA

“Both, my wife and I, have been watching a lot of content in the lockdown and we think we have cracked what would be great for a web-release. My producer, Sauraj, and I have known each other for a long time. We discussed and realised that we have the same vision and immediately decided to collaborate to make digital content.”

### WILLIAM SHATNER RETURNS TO EARTH

*Star Trek* actor **WILLIAM SHATNER**, 90, who has become the world's oldest astronaut, broke down in tears as he came back from the space trip. Shatner is now the oldest person to have been to space and has broken the record of aviation pioneer Wally Funk, aged 83.

“I'm so filled with emotion about what has just happened. It is an extraordinary experience, and I do hope that I can maintain this entry throughout. It is larger than life,” he shared.





RAUNAK KHOSLA advocates substituting conventional coffee with coffee honey to live a healthier life



I can't start my morning without a strong cup of coffee!" is what most people of the current generation wallow about, first thing in the morning.

It's fairly common to find people sipping hot coffee, cold coffee, latte, or any other variety of coffee beverages and revelling in its bitter-sweet taste. However, it is also com-

# HEALTH V/S TASTE BUDS



mon to find the same people complaining of exhaustion and dehydration.

According to experts, more than four cups of coffee a day can cause headaches, anxiety, irregular heartbeats, and even chest pain. However, despite knowing that even a moderate amount of coffee can be detrimental to health, the caffeine addiction is real and compels people to never give up on this savory brew.

The question is, in the age-long war between health and taste buds, who will emerge victorious? However, no one should be forced to make such a decision when both health and taste buds can co-exist together, right? This is where coffee

honey is revolutionising the world for coffee lovers.

**The goodness of honey and mental alertness of coffee**

Along with relishing the taste and resinous aroma of coffee and sweetness of honey, a coffee honey drink is perfect for triggering psych activity in the morning, afternoon, or evening, but without the side effects of a cup of coffee. Coffee honey doesn't mean that it's simply coffee with honey instead of white or brown sugar. No, it's something more magical than that.

To be precise, honeybees are naturally attracted to coffee flowers. These flowers contain caffeine in the

nectar part, which attracts honeybees instinctively. However, it is quite challenging to harvest as the pollination period of coffee flowers is extremely limited. Nevertheless, the bees skillfully draw out the sugar-rich liquid from coffee plants, and a flavorful dark, rich coffee bean color honey is extracted.

Like most coffee, coffee honey efficiently relieves mental and physical fatigue, alerts the brain, and keeps consumers perked up throughout the day. It also stimulates the central nervous system, boosts immunity, and controls insulin levels to elevate the overall wellbeing and productivity of the consumer. Having said that, it doesn't bring the nega-

tive baggage of conventional coffee beans. In fact, coffee honey consists of high volumes of antioxidants and can be highly beneficial in regulating the common cold and cough.

Furthermore, it has endless health benefits for humans and the caffeine nectar of coffee plants is incredibly beneficial for honeybees. It activates their memory process and enables bees to return to the same flower and collect more nectar.

**Moving forward**

On a daily basis, more than one billion people worldwide drink coffee. Imagine how many cups of coffee everyone must be consuming. Although, it's the most widely consumed beverage in the world, it's still not everyone's cup of coffee. Honey coffee, on the other hand, not only soothes consumers' hectic nerves but also aids in weight loss.

The conventional charm of honey coupled with new-age innovations has opened doors for several ventures diving deeper into the world of nectar and organic honey. Honey-based products like coffee honey are usually free of sugar, additives, and artificial flavors. The latest food technology is specially designed for such alternatives that keep the original taste intact while enhancing the healthy attributes of natural products. And coffee honey is an apt example under this category.

The aforementioned data clearly states that because caffeine addiction has become an integral part of most people's lifestyle, it is crucial to opt for healthy, sustainable, and nutritious options. Coffee honey fits the bill perfectly.

So, when are you switching to 100 per cent organic coffee honey? *(The author is the founder of Bee My Boo, an online store for natural products.)*



## To eat less or enough?

With diet culture leading to eating disorders, mood swings, guilt and anxiety, PALLAVI MOULICK suggests ways to heal your relationship with food by attaining balance

The most ironic fact about intuitive eating, is that it is not very intuitive for most of us. It takes intentional effort to get to that point.

80 per cent of women in the US alone are dissatisfied with their bodies. Moreover, longing for a thin and ideal body has an international demand.

The impact of diet culture has some rippling effects. But here are some of the top ones to consider:

- Certain groups of food are heavily demonised.
- Makes you feel unworthy of enjoying the good moments of life.
- Pressure on every woman, especially brides and new mothers, to lose weight is immense.
- Excessive emotional eating behaviours — if your weight does not reduce in the timeline you have set.

Now, the list is endless. The by-products of the impacts are feelings of lethargy, eating disorders, mood swings, guilt, shame and anxiety.

Chronic dieters know that they will always gain the weight back. Dieting has a negative connotation to it, even while thinking about it. Now that the supposed villain is floating around everywhere in the world, it is time to find the main protagonist.

Unfortunately, like a hero in a film, science and the human body is not black and white. There are multiple perspectives that come into play when considering intuitive eating.

The basic principle is to put weight loss on the back burner and pay more attention to the cues of hunger. It shows you the path to heal your relationship with food. It encourages tapping into your inner wisdom of

what your body needs. It also leads to acceptance of your ancestral form of eating. It values fullness over starvation. It nudges you to respect your body.

But the reality is, as of now, that most focus is on just losing weight. So how do we find a common ground between intuitive eating and weight loss?

The best way to look at diet culture vs intuitive eating is by asking the right questions —

- How many kgs did I lose vs am I feeling stronger every day?
- How can I avoid carbs in this meal vs am I feeling satisfied with my meal?
- What will others think when they see my body vs am I feeling healthy in my body?
- Am I eating a 1,200 calorie diet vs am I eating according to what my body and mind need to function properly?

The thought of losing weight is weighing on pretty much every woman's mind. There are deeper roots of the diet mentality than what may seem on the surface. To a certain extent, it stems from the patriarchal viewpoint of seeing beauty in thin bodies. The body does its best to conform to massive changes in life and protect itself. But if the main source of fuel is heavily restricted, the body responds back in the same non-loving manner.

Good things take time. There is a reason this statement has proved to be true time and again. So let's make small shifts in our eating mindset, daily movements for optimised health, and make nutrition and fitness a lifestyle instead of a short-term weight loss goal.

*(The author is the founder of HFA and a holistic health coach for women.)*

— IANS

Want to get rid of the hassle of multiple ingredients to lose weight? We've got just the right choice for you! Yes, you guessed it right, it's the mighty oats! More specifically, oat bran.

Oat bran is the outer layer of the oat groat or seed. In order to make oat bran, the outer shell of the whole oat groat is removed and separated from the endosperm during the processing phase.

Oat bran offers a number of health benefits, including its ability to reduce cholesterol levels, inflammation of the arteries and risk of coronary heart disease. Having said that, oat bran's biggest attribute perhaps is its soluble fibre content. This promotes its ability to benefit digestion, heart health, weight management and cholesterol levels. In addition, the outer layer of the oat seed is also an excellent source of plant-based protein and micronutrients.

Including ample fibre-rich foods in your diet, such as oat bran, can be exactly what you need. Oats are widely known as one of the healthiest grains out there, as they're packed with many crucial vitamins, minerals, and fibre. Although oat

## Shed those extra festive pounds

RAGHAV GUPTA shares five ways to turn oat bran into your go-to kitchen ingredient for weight loss

groats and steel-cut oats naturally contain bran, oat bran is also sold as an individual product. Fibre has several benefits for weight loss, including increased satiety, appetite control and blood sugar regulation. Combine a regular intake of oat bran with a healthy diet and some regular exercise and you are successfully on the path to weight loss.

From the moment it is consumed, the fibre in the oat bran firstly absorbs the saliva, eventually expanding in the stomach. It then, absorb fluids, twenty-five times its volume. This brings about a feeling of fullness that lasts longer, thus helping us to avoid unnecessary snack breaks in-between meals.

Oat bran is easily available in many health food outlets and online stores. It typically comes ground, and can be prepared on a stove, in the microwave or a slow cooker. Keep reading for five quick ways to include oat bran in your diet—



■ Add to your smoothies

Is your morning smoothie too light, making you go hungry even before your lunchtime? Then you may want to consider adding some oat bran to your smoothie jar.

Take half a cup of oat bran and grind it before adding the rest of your smoothie ingredients and blend until combined well. The resulting mixture is

thicker, giving you a more filling smoothie, which is sure to keep you full, well until your lunchtime.

■ Use it as a thickening agent

If you want to increase the thickness, or add a boost of nutrition to your soup or a sauce, oat bran is the answer.

Ditch that corn starch and get yourself some oat bran, a

healthy thickening agent. But before you toss the oat bran into your soup, make sure to grind it into a fine powder to avoid that lumpy consistency.

■ Substitute oat bran for breadcrumbs when cooking.

You can replace breadcrumbs, that are used as binding agents, with oat bran.

For instance, instead of using dry or fresh breadcrumbs for coating your burgers and fish fingers, use an equal portion of oat bran instead.

You can also swap out oat bran for breadcrumbs to make a crunchy topping for your casserole.

Combine half a cup of oat bran with salt, pepper, garlic powder, and grated parmesan cheese. Coat chicken tenders or fillets of fish such as salmon or basa with the oat bran coating.

■ Sprinkle some into omelettes, yoghurt, or cottage cheese

While oat bran is usually cooked, you can also add it raw

into some dishes. Stir one or two tablespoons into your omelette, plain or flavoured yoghurt, cottage cheese or some tofu. This will add a slightly nutty flavour and increase the fibre in your snack.

Snacking on handfuls of bran all through the day can aid in feeling fuller for longer periods of time and curb future snacking habits.

■ Use them in cakes and cookies

Using oat bran to bake your cakes and cookies not only adds a healthy quotient to your favourite desserts but also give you that crunchy texture. So go ahead and whip away your almond date biscotti, date bran muffins or even date squares, adding oat bran provides a soft, chewy texture to these scrumptious baked goods.

So, cut off the hassle of buying multiple ingredients to make your favourite dishes and make that nutritious switch to oat bran!

*(The author is the founder and MD of Oateo Oats, a brand which strives to make every oatmeal an exciting affair.)*

## R E C I P E S



**ORANGE ICED COFFEE**

**WHAT YOU NEED**

- Brewed coffee (French press/Chemex): 150 ml
- Orange (medium-sized): 1
- Sugar syrup: 20 ml
- Ice cubes 6-8

**METHOD**

- Brew your coffee, strain it and cool it down.
- Extract juice from the orange and pour into your glass.
- Fill the glass with ice cubes and pour brewed coffee over it.
- Add sugar syrup and stir before you sip.

Courtesy: Head trainer Abdul Sahid Khan at Lavazza India

**PEPPERMINT GIN & TONIC**

**WHAT YOU NEED**

- Bombay Sapphire: 50 ml
- Peppermint tea: 40 ml
- Premium tonic water: 60 ml
- Mint sprig
- Star anise

**METHOD**

- Fill a balloon glass with ice.
- Add Bombay Sapphire and the peppermint tea.
- Top the glass with the premium tonic water.
- Garnish with a mint sprig and a star anise.

Courtesy: Bombay Sapphire



**CHANDANI CHOWK KI MOONG DAL KACHORI**

**WHAT YOU NEED**

**For the kachori:**

- Whole wheat flour: 30 gm
- Jowar atta: 30 gm
- Salt as per taste
- Baking soda: ¼ tsp
- Oleev's olive pomace oil: 1.5 tsp

**For the filling:**

- Yellow moong dal: 30 gm
- Ginger: 1-inch clove
- Green chili: 1
- Pinch of asafoetida



- Coriander powder: 1 tsp
- Cumin powder: ½ tsp
- Red chili powder: ½ tsp
- Fennel seeds: ¼ tsp
- Lime juice: 1 tsp
- Salt as per taste

**METHOD**

**For the kachori's dough:**

- Sieve whole wheat flour, jowar atta, salt, baking soda and add the Oleev's olive pomace oil.
- Knead into a soft dough using water as desired and keep it aside covered with muslin cloth.

**For the filling:**

- Soak the moong dal for about an hour. Drain and

coarsely grind along with ginger and green chilli.

- Heat some oil in a pan and add coarse dal, ginger, chili, asafoetida, coriander powder, cumin seeds, red chili powder and fennel seeds.
- Cook until the moisture has dried up, add lemon juice and mix well.
- Roll out small puris of dough and stuff moong dal filling and flatten slightly using palms.
- Bake/air fry the prepared kachoris and serve hot with mint chutney.

Courtesy: Nutritionist Nмами Agarwal

**JAGGERY TAPIOCA PUDDING WITH CANDIED PUMPKIN SEED PRALINE**

**WHAT YOU NEED**

- Tapioca pearls (*sabudana*): ½ cup
- Coconut milk: 2.5 cups
- Jaggery: ¾ cup
- Del Monte pumpkin seeds: ½ cup
- Coconut sugar: ¾ cup
- Water: ¼ cup
- Rose petals to garnish

**METHOD**

- Soak tapioca pearls in coconut milk for an hour to soften and bloom.



- In a saucepan, add the soaked tapioca pearls, remaining coconut milk and jaggery and heat over medium heat till it reaches a simmer. Then reduce the heat and let it cook for 15 minutes until the pearls are cooked through and it has all thickened. Keep stirring occasionally to prevent the tapioca from sticking to the bottom. If you wish to have it much thinner, add another cup of coconut milk. Pour into bowls or ramekins to the top and let cool in the refrigerator.
- Toast the pumpkin seeds on a pan for three-four minutes

and place on a silicon mat.

- Cook water and coconut sugar in a saucepan over medium heat, stirring slowly with a metal fork, until melted and golden. Cook caramel without stirring, until deep golden.
- Immediately stir it over pumpkin seeds placed on the silicon mat, spreading it all over so it hardens. Let it cool down and set at room temperature for about 15 minutes. Then break shards of the praline and add that over the tapioca pudding. Garnish with rose petals.

Courtesy: Del Monte





IANS ■ DUBAI

**M**S Dhoni's experienced Chennai Super Kings will lock horns with resurgent Kolkata Knight Riders, led by Eoin Morgan, in the high-octane grand finale of IPL 2021 at Dubai International Stadium, here on Friday.

It will be a record ninth final appearance in 12 editions for Chennai, who have won three titles in 2010, 2011, and 2018 while KKR, who have won the trophy in 2012 and 2014 under the captaincy of Gautam Gambhir, will play their third final. It will also be a repeat of the 2012 IPL final, where both teams faced each other.

CSK beat Delhi Capitals by four wickets in Qualifier 1 in Dubai and became the first team to reach IPL 2021 final and Kolkata also defeated the same team by three wickets in Qualifier 2 on Wednesday to set up the blockbuster final showdown against MS Dhoni's team.

The summit clash on Friday will also be a battle between the two best white-ball captains MS Dhoni and Eoin Morgan, who might be short of runs but have been smart in their tactics on the field.

Openers Faf du Plessis and Ruturaj Gaikwad along with Moeen Ali, Ravindra Jadeja have done exceedingly well with

# The final showdown!

## HEAD TO HEAD (CSK VS KKR)

Matches: 24  
Chennai Super Kings won: 16  
Kolkata Knight Riders won: 8

### THIS SEASON'S MATCHES

- ◆ Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 18 runs at Mumbai
- ◆ Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 2 wickets at Abu Dhabi

### FOR THE RECORD

- ◆ Kolkata Knight Riders never loss a final match in IPL. They reached finals on two previous occasions, and won the title both times. They beat Chennai Super Kings in the final in 2012 and defeated Punjab Kings in the 2014 final.
- ◆ Chennai Super Kings have won three times in eight previous finals. Their last title came in 2018.
- ◆ Chennai Super Kings have won four and lost one in last five matches played against Kolkata Knight Riders.

### ROAD TO THE FINAL:

#### CHENNAI SUPER KINGS:

- ◆ Lost to Delhi Capitals by 7 wickets at Mumbai
- ◆ Beat Punjab Kings by 6 wickets at Mumbai
- ◆ Beat Rajasthan Royals by 45 runs at Mumbai
- ◆ Beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 18 runs at Mumbai
- ◆ Beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 69 runs at Mumbai
- ◆ Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 7 wickets at Delhi
- ◆ Lost to Mumbai Indians by 4 wickets at Delhi
- ◆ Beat Mumbai Indians by 20 runs at Dubai
- ◆ Beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 6 wickets at Sharjah
- ◆ Beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 2 wickets at Abu Dhabi

the bat for CSK. But, how they deal with the 12 quality overs from KKR's spin trio of Varun Chakravarthy, Shakib Al Hasan, and Sunil Narine, can decide the outcome of the final.

However, the final match will be played on a better pitch in Dubai in comparison to a slow and sluggish tack of Sharjah. And the likes of Ambati Rayudu, Robin Uthappa and MS dhoni in middle overs can heave a sigh of relief.

- ◆ Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 6 wickets at Sharjah
- ◆ Lost to Rajasthan Royals by 7 wickets at Abu Dhabi
- ◆ Lost to Delhi Capitals by 3 wickets at Dubai
- ◆ Lost to Punjab Kings by 6 wickets at Dubai
- ◆ Beat Delhi Capitals by 4 wickets at Dubai (Qualifier 1)

### KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

- ◆ Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 10 runs at Chennai
- ◆ Lost to Mumbai Indians by 10 runs at Chennai
- ◆ Lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore by 38 runs at Chennai
- ◆ Lost to Chennai Super Kings by 18 runs at Mumbai
- ◆ Lost to Rajasthan Royals by 6 wickets at Mumbai
- ◆ Beat Punjab Kings by 5 wickets at Ahmedabad
- ◆ Lost to Delhi Capitals by 7 wickets at Ahmedabad
- ◆ Beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 9 wickets at Abu Dhabi
- ◆ Beat Mumbai Indians by 7 wickets at Abu Dhabi
- ◆ Lost to Chennai Super Kings by 2 wickets at Abu Dhabi
- ◆ Beat Delhi Capitals by 3 wickets at Sharjah
- ◆ Lost to Punjab Kings by 5 wickets at Dubai
- ◆ Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 6 wickets at Dubai
- ◆ Beat Rajasthan Royals by 86 runs at Sharjah
- ◆ Beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 4 wickets at Sharjah (Eliminator)
- ◆ Beat Delhi Capitals by 3 wickets at Sharjah (Qualifier 2)

**FAISEL FEATURES**

Deepak Chahar, Shardul Thakur, Dwayne Bravo, and Josh Hazlewood have been good with the ball for CSK. But they have also crumbled under pressure especially while defending the target. The experience of playing in Dubai in the last couple of games may help CSK bowlers to acclimatise well with angles of ground and pitch.

On the other hand, Eoin Morgan-led KKR have been on a fairytale ride since the UAE leg of the tournament began. A bulk of



Kolkata's success in the UAE leg has been due to the fearless approach by their youngsters. Openers Shubman Gill and Venkatesh Iyer have given them fantastic starts and Rahul Tripathi and Nitish Rana have also chipped in with useful innings.

Shakib's all-round abilities have provided more balance to KKR in absence of Andre Russell, who sustained a hamstring injury. It will be interesting to see whether Russell becomes fit to play in the final or not. Their pacers Lockie Ferguson, Shivam Mavi have picked wickets at regular intervals while spinners Varun Chakravarthy, and Sunil Narine have stifled opposition batsmen with disciplined bowling.

However, the big concern for the McCullum-coached side going into the final will be the form of Dinesh Karthik and Eoin Morgan, both of whom registered ducks in the Qualifier 2 against DC on Wednesday and continue to have a poor season with the bat.

### Squads:

**Kolkata Knight Riders:** Eoin Morgan (C), Andre Russell, Dinesh Karthik (W), Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Kuldeep Yadav, Lockie Ferguson, Nitish Rana, Pat Cummins, Prasidh Krishna, Rahul Tripathi, Sandeep Warrier, Shivam Mavi, Shubman Gill, Sunil Narine, Tim Seifert, Varun Chakravarthy, Shakib Al Hasan, Sheldon Jackson, Vaibhav Arora, Karun Nair, Harbhajan Singh, Ben Cutting, Venkatesh Iyer, Pawan Negi, Gurkeerat Mann Singh, Tim Southee

**Chennai Super Kings:** Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Suresh Raina, Ambati Rayudu, KM Asif, Deepak Chahar, Dwayne Bravo, Faf du Plessis, Imran Tahir, N Jagadeesan, Karn Sharma, Lungi Ngidi, Mitchell Santner, Ravindra Jadeja, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shardul Thakur, R Sai Kishore, Moeen Ali, K Gowtham, Cheteshwar Pujara, Harishankar Reddy, Bhagath Varma, C Hari Nishanth.

## Indian team’s new jersey showcased at Burj Khalifa



IANS ■ DUBAI

**A** couple of hours after its launch, the new jersey of the Indian cricket team was showcased in a scintillating light show on Burj Khalifa, the worlds tallest building, in Dubai. MPL Sports, the official kit sponsor for the Indian cricket team, posted the video of the light show at the Burj Khalifa with the new jersey late on Wednesday night.

“For the first time ever, a Team India Jersey lit up the @BurjKhalifa. The #BillionCheersJersey inspired by the cheers of a billion fans reached new heights, quite literally.

Are you ready to #ShowYourGame and back Team India?” tweeted the MPL Sports on Thursday.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) also shared the video on its Twitter handle, reading as “The Team India World Cup jersey unveil gets bigger and better with a projection on the iconic Burj Khalifa. Watch the historic moment here!”

The new jersey, unveiled ahead of the men's T20 World Cup in the UAE and Oman, features soundwaves designs inspired from the cheers of the fans. During the show, larger-than-life renditions of captain Virat Kohli, vice-captain Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah in the new jersey.

India will kick off their men's T20 World Cup campaign against Pakistan in a Group 2 match of Super 12 on October 24 in the Dubai International Stadium.

## Pakistan will have to be fearless against India in T20 WC opener: Miandad

PTI ■ KARACHI

**F**ormer Pakistan captain Javed Miandad believes a fearless approach would be crucial to his country's chances of upstaging a star-studded India when the two arch-rivals clash in their highly-anticipated T20 World Cup opener on October 24.

India have never lost to Pakistan in an ICC World Cup, either 50-over or T20.

“The match against India will be crucial to getting momentum in the tournament. They are a strong side and have several top players but if we can play without fear and pressure and everyone does his bit we can beat them,” he said.

Miandad believes that the Pakistan team has the capability of doing well in the event if it puts in a collective effort.

“T20 format is one where people think that one or two play-

ers can win you matches but I look at it this way that in this format everyone needs to contribute in some way or the other for a team to be a winning outfit,” Miandad said.

The former batter retired from all cricket in 1997/98 before the T20 format was introduced internationally.

He said that Pakistan can't just rely on an in-form Babar Azam to steer them ahead.



## Chhetri double strike helps India beat Maldives 3-1

PTI ■ MALE

**T**alismanic captain Sunil Chhetri struck twice to lead a beleaguered India to a 3-1 win over hosts Maldives in their final league match and enter the final of the SAFF Championships here on Wednesday.

Chhetri scored in the 62nd and 71st minutes after Manvir Singh had given India the lead in the 33rd minute in the must-win match for India. Ali Ashfaq pulled one back for Maldives in the 45th minute from a spot kick.

The 37-year-old Chhetri, who was playing in his 124th

match, is just one goal shy of Argentine maestro Lionel Messi (80), who is the second highest international goal scorer among active players behind Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (115).

Seven-time champions India, who finished on top of the five-team table with eight points, face Nepal in the final on October 16.

Nepal drew 1-1 with Bangladesh in the earlier match of the day to finish second in the round-robin league with seven points.

India had beaten Nepal 1-0 in a league stage.

## Ended in heartbreak: Pant after IPL ouster



PTI ■ SHARJAH

**D**elhi Capitals captain Rishabh Pant on Thursday said he is proud of his side despite its ouster from the IPL after a close loss to Kolkata Knight Riders in Qualifier 2 and described his teammates as “exceptional warriors”.

Delhi lost by three wickets, primarily undone by an underwhelming batting show which put up just 135 runs on the board for KKR to chase. Delhi fought hard with the ball but KKR edged home with one ball to spare after losing five wickets for seven runs at one stage. “It ended in heartbreak last night, but I could not be more proud of leading this team of exceptional warriors. We battled hard through the season, and while we may have fallen short on some days, we always gave 100 per cent,” Pant tweeted. “To the owners, management, staff, my teammates and most importantly, our passionate fans, I want to say thank you from my heart. You all made this season special.

## India’s last group match lost to China

PTI ■ AARHUS (DENMARK)

**A**lready through to the quarterfinals, the Indian men's badminton team suffered a defeat at the hands of formidable China in its last group match of the Thomas Cup here on Thursday.

Only the doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty could manage a win in the men's team championship tie as they beat He Ji Ting and Zhou Hao Dong 21-14 21-14 in a 41-minute contest.

The win by Rankireddy and Shetty duo boosted the confidence of the Indian team after a struggling Kidambi Srikanth began the day for India with a 12-21 16-21 loss to Shi Yu Qi in 36



minutes.

Sameer Verma gave a tough fight to Lu Guang Ju but eventually lost his singles match 21-14 9-21 22-24 after one hour and 23 minutes as India trailed 1-2.

The other doubles pair of M R Arjun and Dhruv Kapila went down fighting 24-26 19-21 to Liu Cheng and Wang Yi Lyu in 52 minutes before

Kiran George lost to Li Shi Feng 15-21 17-21 in the 43-minute singles match.

The defeat against China was the first for the men's team in the tournament.

It had beaten the Netherlands 5-0 on Sunday before notching up a victory against Tahiti by an identical margin on Tuesday to qualify for Thomas Cup quarterfinals for the first time since 2010. The women's team plays against Japan in the Uber Cup quarterfinal match later in the day.

## Shafali makes quiet WBBL debut

PTI ■ HOBART

**Y**oung Indian batter Shafali Verma endured an underwhelming Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) debut in her team Sydney Sixers' six-wicket win over Melbourne Stars on the opening day of the competition at the Bellerive Oval here on Thursday.

Chasing 100 runs to win in 11 overs in the rain-hit match, the 17-year-old right-handed opener fell for 8 (10 balls, 1 four) in the fourth over.

Her first-wicket partnership with Alyssa Healy, who hit a

superb 57 (27 balls, 11 fours), yielded 40 runs before Shafali was bowled by Annabel Sutherland attempting a big heave.

The Sixers appeared to be on their way to a comfortable win before losing three wickets including that of Healy. But Nicole Bolton (7 not out) and Angela Reakes (3 not out) steered them home.

Earlier, sent in to bat by Sixers captain Ellyse Perry, the Melbourne Stars rode on a quick-fire 54 not out (31 balls, 5 fours, 1 six) by Elyse Villani to make 99 for 1 in 11 overs.

Skipper Meg Lanning contributed 23 (17 balls, 4 fours).

### INDIAN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL AGAINST SWEDEN

**Manama:** Buoyed by the win against higher-ranked Chinese Taipei in the last match of its international tour, the Indian women's football team will play against two Swedish sides later this month as part of its preparations for next year's Asian Cup in the country. The team will play against two top tier 1 sides Hammarby IF (October 20) and Djurgarden IF (October 23) in Sweden. India head coach Thomas Dennerby was earlier at the helm of affairs of both the clubs. The team has already played four international friendlies against the UAE (4-1), Tunisia (0-1), Bahrain (5-0) and Chinese Taipei (1-0) over the last few weeks in Dubai and Manama.